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EEC about to miss the chance of stressing Europe's importance

If anyone whatsoever is to derive political benefit from the sickness that has befallen sterling it can only be President Pompidou of France. Cynical though this may sound, there can be no gainsaying a fact that was so clearly in evidence at the Franco-Federal Republic summit in Bonn.

It would not befit M. Pompidou or, for that matter, be countenanced by others if he were to try and impose his will on his partners in Europe in the haughty manner of his great predecessor, General de Gaulle.

Yet the sole, albeit not inconsiderable difference between him and the General is that he has cut down to size the excessive ideas of General de Gaulle in respect of France's great power role and cast himself in the role of a dapper, courteous diplomat.

M. Pompidou is also a strong-willed man, however, and represents a sounder guarantor of continuity in French foreign policy than originally appeared the case.

Only recently he has pushed through his views among the Ten in precisely the same way as France used to assert itself in the days when the Common Market was referred to as the Six.

The summit conference of old and new members of the European Community proposed by M. Pompidou himself and scheduled to be held in Paris in October will almost certainly stick first and foremost to an agenda primarily taking French interests into account. A European monetary union will be the main topic.

Monetary issues are indeed gradually assuming paramount importance for the stability of Western Europe but in terms of the future of Europe they are only part of and not the entire problem.

Internal consolidation of the Community, clarification of its relationship with America, the Eastern Bloc and the Third World, not to mention further progress in the direction of a common foreign policy, run counter to France's own interests.

This is why M. Pompidou chose – evidently with success – to confront Europe with a choice between a summit dealing mainly with monetary policy or no summit at all. The subsequent sterling crisis has lent this condition greater power of conviction than all M. Pompidou's previous arguments put together.

The Benelux countries have meanwhile also chosen to toe France's line. The summit is not to founder on demands for structural reforms in the Europe of the Ten to which France is opposed.

Willy Brandt too has accepted the inevitable, noting that "I do not know for sure whether the projected summit conference in Paris this October will come about but there is no doubt in my mind that the enlarged European Community must be vitally interested in developing a common monetary policy."

As the Bonn Federal government is also not prepared to counter a fresh inflow of dollars by floating the Mark the danger of conflict on the road to European integration can be considered to have been averted as Chancellor Brandt and President Pompidou consult in Bonn.

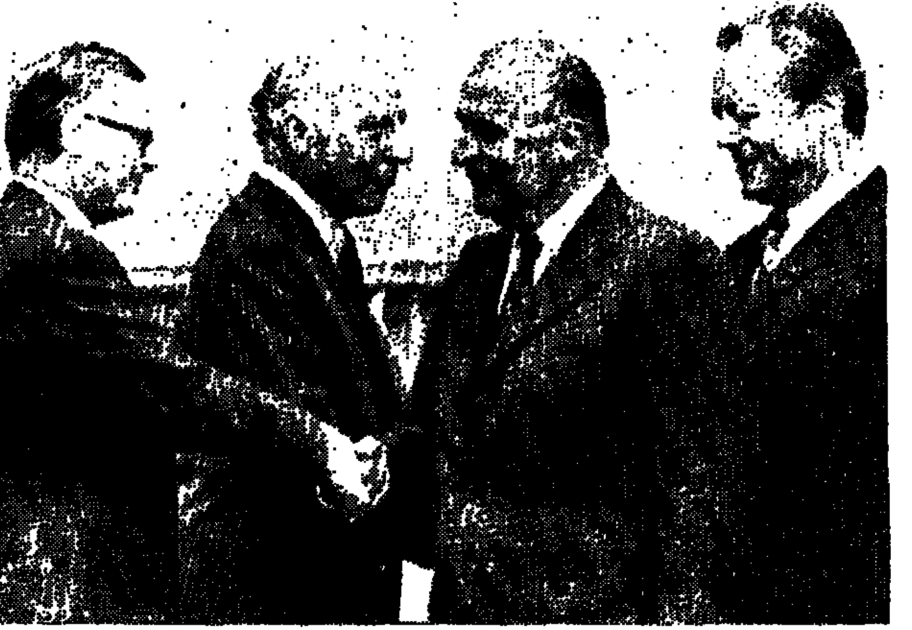
There is certainly less risk of the October summit being cancelled than has recently appeared the case. A likely limitation to monetary matters is nonetheless unfortunate, to say the least.

The ten-member EEC differs in many respects from its six-member predecessor – both in geographical extent and in political and economic make-up in countries and regions ranging from the North Cape to Sicily.

The Ten are the largest trading power in the world, but there is a world of difference between economic and political power. The Ten are both unwilling and institutionally unable to draw up and pursue a common foreign policy.

In respect of security Europe remains dependent on America and for the foreseeable future cannot even be expected to define its role of self-assertion between the world powers.

The Ten may not attend next year's all-European conference on security and cooperation entirely unprepared. Attempts will have been made to work out a common approach. But they will not be able to pull their full weight.



President Georges Pompidou arrived in Bonn on 3 July for discussions with Chancellor Willy Brandt. He was met by Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Karl Schiller (left) and Foreign Minister Walter Scheel. The French President proposes discussing with the Chancellor the October EEC summit meeting and the current currency crisis. (Photo: dpa)

On the other hand there can be no doubt as to the credibility of M. Pompidou and his outline of a loosely-linked European confederation "one of these days," that is, hardly before the end of the decade.

There is little point in arguing the toss whether it should be a confederation or a federative state. This is an issue on which virtually no head of government is seriously prepared to argue any longer. Practical politics is the art of the possible and the possible has absolute priority over the desirable.

There is in any case no reason to assume that the process of European integration need progress along conventional international lines.

If, though, what has so far been achieved is merely to be continued and President Pompidou's vision of a league of nations is everywhere accepted – without too much straining at the leash – as the maximum target, all future decisions must be viewed in terms of this goal.

The extension of the EEC to form a monetary union certainly conforms with this target. For one the only sector in which the Common Market is already a bona fide economic union, agriculture, can only be maintained on condition that monetary matters do not cause too much of a rumpus.

What is more, the proposed monetary union will compel all and sundry, even though the French may not yet be prepared to acknowledge the fact, gradually to iron out economic differences between the Ten – up to and including harmonisation of budgetary policies. Otherwise there would be no hope of a Eurofranc emerging.

Standardisation in sectors that determine prosperity, social justice and domestic stability may then yet trigger off closer political cooperation.

Progress on monetary policy, as primarily expected of the Paris summit by M. Pompidou, cannot really be made dependent at this stage on whether or not France is prepared to play ball on other aspects of integration.

It nonetheless remains a disappointing fact that the Ten do not yet seem to measure up to a unique historic challenge. An opportunity of resuscitating the erstwhile international importance of the Continent would to all intents and purposes appear to be in the process of being missed.

Kurt Becker
(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 1 July 1972)

IN THIS ISSUE

Bonn introduces controls on foreign investors

The Bonn Cabinet took no less than eight hours on 29 June before deciding on foreign trade safeguards after EEC Finance Ministers meeting in Luxembourg had merely reiterated last December's Washington realignment of exchange rates.

The length of time the Cabinet took, with Bundesbank president Karl Klasen in attendance, to reach its decision would seem to indicate that views differed as to whether the government should utilise the provision of the 1961 Foreign Trade Act entitling Bonn to impose controls on the purchase of stocks and shares by foreign nationals.

Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Karl Schiller was opposed to controls of this kind, including, for instance, a ban on the establishment of companies in which foreign nationals have a stake and an embargo on interest payments on foreign nationals' bank accounts in this country.

Dr Schiller was overruled by the Cabinet, however, and exchange controls have now been imposed to the extent that the sale of stocks to foreign nationals is now subject to approval.

As expected the Cabinet has also rigorously increased the cash holdings regulations, which now make the raising of funds abroad most unattractive and plug a gap that was one of the principal means of increasing the amount of money in circulation.

The foreign trade safeguards to which the Federal government has resorted are thus limited in extent and, as so often in the past, amount to a request that the Bundesbank make full use of the means of intervention at its disposal.

Without any doubt the Bundesbank will drastically increase the minimum reserves banks have to deposit free of interest in Frankfurt. This skimming-off of liquidity will be designed to cut back credit leeway and lessen inflationary pressure.

(Münchner Merkur, 30 June 1972)

■ **FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

IRA calls a truce in the Northern Ireland struggle

DIE ZEIT

When the fifty-year history of civil war in Northern Ireland is written the IRA will play the part the Swedes played in the Thirty Years' War. Originally associated with one of the two denominational sides, its subsequent role was merely that of spreading fear and terror.

Both came and went with the suddenness of natural disasters. At times nothing was seen of them for years yet one knew that they existed and could reappear at any given moment.

The Irish Republican Army has twice before been the scourge of the country, first in the wake of partition and then shortly before the outbreak of the Second World War.

It is a demoniac but inseparable part of Ireland. Even when the IRA's weapons are at rest its evil spirit is still at large and will not fail to rear its ugly head should the forthcoming negotiations with Whitehall not have the required outcome.

And regardless who represents it the IRA will certainly fail to achieve one ambition: that of a united and if possible Marxist Ireland.

The majority of Ulstermen would be opposed to unification and no government in Whitehall, whether Labour or Tory, is going to consign a million loyal subjects of Her Majesty to the uncertainty of an economically and socially relatively backward united Ireland.

Does the IRA plan to revert to terror as soon as the slightest difficulty arises in negotiations that cannot fail to represent a political upgrading for it? To judge by the frenzied shooting right up until the ceasefire deadline this would appear to be the case.

Certainly the intention was to remind both the British and the Irish prior to the armistice who really controls the highways and byways of the country and that the IRA is unquestionably in a position to impose peace and quiet for the time being.

The balance so far consists of 400 dead, including more than 100 young soldiers, and damage to property reminiscent only of the bombing thirty years ago.

William Whitelaw, Britain's man in Belfast, has certainly been given no easy time by the terrorists, who have now been confirmed as freedom fighters and gained further concessions for the Roman Catholic minority they claim to represent.

The internment camps will be opened, though, and in return Mr Whitelaw expects the civil disobedience campaign in Roman Catholic areas of Northern Ireland to come to an end.

This is a sine qua non for the local elections scheduled to be held this autumn. These elections are a thorn in the flesh of the Protestants, who stand to forfeit many of their traditional local government bastions.

Mr Whitelaw, on the other hand, expects a great deal of the elections, which will remedy fifty years of electoral injustice and increase democratic participation by the Roman Catholic minority in the government of Northern Ireland.

This will not only sober up the majority, used to power as it is; it will also cut back the power of illegal forces.

One of the main reasons why the IRA had so little trouble in gaining a firm hold on Roman Catholic areas was that apart from a few MPs in Stormont the political establishment of Northern Ireland had starved the minority of influence.

Even so one is left with an uneasy feeling that Mr Whitelaw and the IRA might yet have come to an agreement had it not been for the existence of extremists in the Protestant camp.

The underground army must feel a degree of respect for the cool logic of the man from Whitehall, otherwise the armistice would never have been concluded in the first place.

A problem that remains unsolved, however, is who is in future to speak on behalf of the majority in Northern Ireland. There is little point in assuring the Protestants that they will never have to consent to *Anschluss* with the Republic.

They must also be told what is to be[...] of a Northern Ireland that remains p[...] of the United Kingdom.

It is to revert to the status of Scot[...] and Wales, which merely have a Ca[...] Minister and a few regional rights bu[...] parliament of their own, no governm[...] and no constitution?

Total integration of Northern Irelan[...] part of the United Kingdom is as tri[...] subject for Irish nationalism as uni[...]tion with the Republic is unacceptab[...] the majority of people in the North.

In situations of this kind Britain te[...] to adopt a wait-and-see approach, whi[...] diametrically opposed to the Irish [...]perament of the IRA leaders.

The armistice may represent a tri[...] of common sense. It will certai[...] crease the longing of the Norther[...] for peace and provide the peace an[...] so bitterly needed if the troubled [...]vince is to regain economic stability.

It does not affect the basic issue [...] way or the other, though, the funda[...]tal question being whether Ulster ... or British and whether geography or generals are to decide matters.

Karl-Heinz Wocke
(Die Zeit, 30 June ...)

Lebanon and the Israelis

It was only a matter of time before the Israelis lost patience, the razor's edge growing increasingly sharper after the monstrous bomb attack at Lod airport, Tel Aviv.

All that was needed to set the wheels of attack and counter-attack in motion again was further provocation by the Arab guerrillas on the Lebanese frontier.

The current victim of this latter-day version of the Biblical eye for an eye and tooth for a tooth is the Lebanon. A small and politically fragile country, it is permanently at the mercy of both the Israelis and its extremist Arab brethren.

Beirut is faced with a virtually insoluble problem in the form of the Israeli strikes against Palestinian guerilla bases [...] territory.

The government must choose be[...] action against the guerrillas and a[...] ance of further and probably increa[...] virulent attacks by the Israelis.

If it decides to take arms again[...] guerrillas as the Israelis demand Le[...] is faced with the threat of civil w[...] delicate balance between Christians [...] Moslems in the Lebanon *will* not [...] stand serious upset.

If, on the other hand, Beirut take[...] action people in the border area [...] continue to be at the receiving end [...] retaliatory attacks by Israel.

For the Israelis the withdrawal [...] guerrillas from the border area is a must [...] of security. The Palestinian refugee ca[...] in this part of the world are forts [...] bristling with weapons in which th[...]sands of fedayeen are waiting only f[...] order to attack.

Jerusalem is afraid lest the se[...] violence will continue to be sown [...] camps. The refugee camps in the [...]non, though, represent the guerrillas' [...] intact reservoir in their fight against [...] and they can hardly be expected [...] comply with Beirut's desire that [...] exercise a little more discretion, let [...] to agree to withdraw.

More is thus at stake in South Leba[...] than a mutual demonstration of stre[...] or proof that the logic of violence [...] counter-violence still holds good i[...] Middle East. What is currently at stake [...] the future of the Lebanon.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 27 June 1[...])

China slowly slithers into major power status

Chinese pioneers are repairing bombed roads, railway track, bridges and tunnels in North Vietnam. Since North Vietnamese ports were mined specialists of the Chinese People's Liberation Army have been busy laying a six-inch plastic pipeline astraddle the 7,000-foot mountains that mark the frontier between the two countries.

Peking assured the beleaguered comrades of fraternal assistance as soon as the United States started mine-laying and aerial bombardment. "We are your great rearward base," Peking told Hanoi. "The Chinese people supports you in the struggle against the American aggressors with all the means at its command."

The People's Republic's assistance nonetheless began with a refusal to allow Soviet freighters with military material for the war against Saigon to unload their cargo in South Chinese ports.

The Chinese also stand accused of having so far refused to allow Soviet military assistance to pass through China by rail into North Vietnam.

On this score there was grave tension between Peking and Moscow between 1965 and 1967 because of Soviet assertions that deliveries destined for Hanoi were being held up or mislaid altogether in China.

Mao Tse-tung's China has views on socialist solidarity that differ from those of the Kremlin, however, and it does look as though the dispute over what constitutes fraternal assistance has been contested at the North Vietnamese comrades' expense.

In their position they had little choice in any case. Ho Chi Minh's continual tight-rope walk between the two great powers and rivals had for Hanoi the advantage that the two outdid one another in their pledges of assistance.

Both Moscow and Peking approved of the Vietnam war as a means of forestalling American imperialism in Asia but they needed the war just as much as a means of keeping one another in check.

Peking urged General Vo Nguyen Giap to prolong the people's war and for years supplied the basic wherewithal from sub-machine guns to the jungle guerrillas' rice rations.

Until the latest offensive North Vietnamese prisoners have always emphasised China's military assitance. "What Moscow supplies is not for us," one PoW said. "Moscow's arms deliveries are for the big boys."

Peking's military assistance has certainly played a major role in bringing about the conclusion reached by Western diplomats in Hanoi that younger North Vietnamese are increasingly tending to favour their great northern neighbour.

For the past year it has looked as though Moscow was in the process of securing the greater influence. The Soviet Union has supplied all major weapons: heavy artillery, missile batteries and radar equipment for anti-aircraft defence.

Last but not least Soviet tanks made their appearance in April to lay the groundwork for a victorious North Vietnamese offensive in the South. It could well be that this escalation of war and military techniques has been partially responsible for the North Vietnamese dilemma.

Now that the offensive has ground to a gradual standstill North Vietnam is faced with the problem of political survival. Peking is alleged to have warned Hanoi against adventurism in conventional warfare.

The outcome of the offensive has provided Peking with a convenient opportunity of reminding Hanoi of its words of wisdom.

Peking's aim is to keep the Soviet Union out of Asia or at least away from China's southern flank in order to forestall the risk of encirclement.

This is one of the reasons why Peking is against the idea of an Indo-China led or dominated by North Vietnam, an offshoot of General de Gaulle's concept that has now been espoused by the Soviet Union.

Chinese Premier Chou En-lai is also in favour of a swift end to the Vietnam war. Above all, he would like there to be a stable solution to the problems involved.

Neither Peking nor Moscow, however, is in a position to force North Vietnam to lose face to the Americans. Peking can now control what flows through its pipeline, though.

Observers in Asia thus conclude that China is well on the way to engaging in the major power politics to which it so bitterly objects.

Hans-Wilfried von Stockhausen
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 29 June 1972)

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■ **DOMESTIC POLITICS**

CDU/CSU young wing draft a programme of action

The *Junge Union* has set out on a vigorous campaign of attack against its parent parties, the CDU and CSU. In its recently published draft basic programme the *Junge Union* says that the CDU/CSU should be developed into a reforming party conforming far more to a specific programme of orientation.

But there is a note of appeasement in point five of the draft which states that "the ties between the *Junge Union* and the CDU/CSU" are "guaranteed by agreements on all basic political values."

This idea of giving the Christian Democrats a programme — and not just campaigns to carry them from one election to the next — is nothing new. But even an official commission given to the former party General Secretary was converted into a pragmatic intention, which thus was far less likely to cause heated discussion within the party.

The party leadership was well aware of what was up when the Junge Union went to work on this occasion. During six months of work, in which we hear there were heated debates, some of which threatened to jeopardize the whole plan, a commission was created to produce a paper explaining in six chapters what the *Junge Union* considers to be "politics based on Christian responsibility" (this old, old phrase was accepted amid hesitation). The committee is chaired by Wulf Schönbohm, the head of the influential Rhineland division of the *JU*.

The nature and wording of this paper are not consistent. Insiders tell us that the more pathetic sections (for example: "... a party for the oppressed, suffering and socially handicapped people of our society, whose freedom is only theoretical.") come from "progressive" *JU* groups, while the more scientific, sober and partly politically slangy sections stem from the conservative members of the commission.

To a certain extent the handed-down definitions of tried and tested CDU policy which today seem imprecise make it all too easy to slip into contrasting clichés. "Humanisation of society" and "boosting the quality of life" are propagated and there is talk of "forward looking perspectives" and "the matter-of-fact political and personal reform process" which must be "pursued".

What are of far more significance for the CDU and CSU are those sections in which there is a painstaking effort to take up self-evident and thus rather neglected CDU attitudes in a new language with more precise wording that would appeal far more to the critical intellect of a younger generation.

One example of this is point 13: "Mankind is imperfect; this is expressed in his striving for perfection. For politicians this means never regarding anything as definitive and incapable of change and always treating every social structure and form of State organisation as open to question.

"Insight into the imperfection of Mankind leads to a renunciation of the claim that the perfection of Mankind and society cannot be achieved either by peaceful means or by violence."

The semantic gobbledegook in the last sentence is the outcome of a bitter debate over phrasing.

The chapter "Economic in the service of society" is likely to give rise to the greatest controversy within the party. On this point too the commission has put all its force and energy into an attempt to modernise faded CDU theories dating back to the early days of the Federal Republic's free enterprise "social market economy".

Emphasis is laid on the demand for a State framework of order for all economic procedures falling between the "free market economy principle", which creates freedom for individuals and groups, and the social principle, which provides social security and a guaranteee of full use of economic factors.

Alongside the countermanding of the present land laws, unjust tax advantages and limitation of competitiveness it is worth noting that the draft also condemns the undermining of the principle of productivity, and attempts to provide a firm basis for "a just division of income in accordance with the free enterprise economy" in their programme.

The market as a distributor of incomes is "just" inasmuch as this corresponds to "diverse initiatives towards productivity". Differences would be permissible where these were in accordance with varying talents and circumstances.

But differences that can be attributed to differing divisions of wealth or a lack of equality of opportunity in education are among the "unjust".

This draft programme of the *Junge Union* will be discussed and passed at the national assembly of the *JU* in Fulda between 29 September and 1 October. The authors of this programme are, however, afraid that from he tactical point of view it will fall foul of premature general elections.

Joachim Fink
(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 23 June 1972)



(Photo: dpa)

Ingrid Matthaeus, the new leader of the Young Democrats

When Ingrid Matthaeus, the new Young Democrats' leader, stands at the speaker's rostrum with her long black hair flowing down to her jeans, the often rebellious left-wingers in the organisation are transformed into attentive listeners.

She is not only slim and attractive — she shows great presence of mind and understanding when interpreting her organisation's programme of principles and strategy.

Her progressive vocabulary and dialectical formulation remove any doubts about her not standing up to the pragmaticians in the FDP leadership.

The uncompromising position taken up by 26-year-old Ingrid Matthaeus became clear before her election as leader in Giessen when she clashed with FDP Secretary General Karl-Hermann Flach in a heated debate.

"You should beware of promoting lightweight politicians against us, Herr Flach," she said. "The FDP's lost credibility must first be re-established. The FDP group in the next Bundestag must be free of potential turncoats like Mende and Kienbaum."

Ingrid Matthaeus, a Münster girl, acquired the reputation of being an advocate of pure theory while still head of the North Rhine-Westphalia branch of the Young Democrats.

She is the Young Democrats' chief theoretician and will force the organisation to become more anti-capitalist, more progressive and more uncompromising in their demand for far-reaching social reforms.

Party leaders in Bonn would without doubt have preferred to see their "dissident relations" headed by Rolf Viethen from Osnabrück, an advocate of unstrained relations with the FDP who was only narrowly defeated by Ingrid Matthaeus.

The Young Democrats have now gone further to the left, there can be no mistaking that. Their new head is said to have ambitions about running for the Bundestag. The extent to which she and the party can come to terms will be seen when candidates are appointed.

Wilhelm Körber
(Die Welt, 27 June 1972)

Munich's new mayor, Georg Kronawitter

Munich had only two mayors in all during the 25 years of post-war history and both were Social Democrats whose work was reduced to simple slogans. Thomas Wimmer was the man who rolled up his sleeves after the Second World War and encouraged the populace to help reconstruct the devastated city.

Hans-Jochen Vogel, his successor, was a suave and educated lawyer who took Munich into the twentieth century, building an underground railway, a suburban railway and making the city modern and suitable enough to stage the Olympics.

Georg Kronawitter, who was elected mayor on 11 June and took over from Vogel on 1 July, already bears a tag — he will look after the man on the street whose interests have been largely ignored because of the general concern about the appearance and reputation of the city.

When describing the characteristics of a mayor, some link should be established between them and those of the city he governs. According to everything that has been said, written, thought or only felt, Munich is more than the city of the small man with his housing problems — it claims a specific type of urbanity.

But Kronawitter has few specifically Munich characteristics. He has none of the city's easy-going manner that has its pleasant as well as fateful aspects. He has none of its desire for every day to be a holiday.

Baroque, a word all too willingly used when describing a Bavarian, cannot be applied to Kronawitter. Lean and haggard, with prominent cheek-bones and at times penetrating eyes, Kronawitter resembles an ascetic more than a bon viveur.

Kronawitter was born on a farm in the Pfaffenhofen area in 1928 and stubbornly and tenaciously elbowed his way up the ladder. Like many people who do not deny their origins yet want to shake off the typical features of their background, Kronawitter was a little too strait-laced and too much of a model pupil during his sometimes rather difficult educational career.



(Photo: Sven Simon)

After a spell as a manual worker and baker's apprentice, Kronawitter attended a teachers training college and passed with flying colours. He then decided to catch up on his studies and took the school-leaving certificate at the age of 24.

Kronawitter studied economics, education and sociology in Munich. Afterwards he taught for ten years in schools of commerce before being elected to the Bavarian Provincial Assembly in 1966 and quickly building up a reputation for himself within the party.

It has been quipped that the Social Democrats have chosen their agricultural expert as mayor of a city numbering over one million inhabitants. But Kronawitter's specialist knowledge would not have been sufficient to ensure him a career in the party if he had not been a dutiful party man and parliamentarian.

Land reform, his hobby-horse, has increased his reputation within the party and certainly prompted Vogel to support him. Kronawitter does not look upon land with the eyes of an agricultural expert but, like Vogel, with those of a social services specialist. He singled out a local estate-owner, the target for attacks that sometimes became very personal.

This case, that lasted for years, is only mentioned as it throws a light on the new mayor's political nature. It proved Kronawitter's tenacity as he never wavered in his efforts to find some evidence of the fact that Finck had been given preferential treatment when claiming compensation for land lost as a result of the Second World War.

It demonstrates his ability to do painstaking work as the available material was both extensive and complicated. But the case also showed Kronawitter's tendency to indulge in demagogy as his propaganda was directed against a man who was ultra-wealthy yet completely blameless.

Kronawitter has few hobbies. He likes travelling into the mountains and he plays badminton from time to time.

Up to now all his time has been spent in the service of his party. He is one of the many politicians who are basically only interested in politics. His favourite battleground during the recent election campaign was the pedestrian precinct in the city centre where he wanted to meet people and talk with them. He told passers-by that he, as a person born among common folk, would always do all he could to uphold the interests of the man in the street.

Roswin Finkenzeller
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 23 June 1972)

Busy lawmakers

Before it broke up for the summer on 23 June, the sixth West German Bundestag had passed 318 laws in 196 plenary sessions. The nineteen Bundestag committees and special committees organised 1,270 meetings. Members received 3,606 official documents to read. The government answered 29 major questions from the floor of the House.

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 24 June 1972)



■ COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Drug addicts' parents in Bremen attack official apathy

DIE ZEIT

What are these parents thinking of? Is the taxpayer supposed to make good the shortcomings in the education they have given their children? Where on earth do they get the cheek to expect decent people to fork out for their badly brought up brats?

"What the hell do we care about the Maiers' son or the Lehmanns' daughter who have got themselves hooked on drugs," one letter writer in the *Weser Kurier* in Bremen wanted to know. He spoke straight from the heart and reflected the opinions of many people in the north of Germany.

The hue and cry that was started by the parents of young drug dependents, one a bookshop owner, one an entrepreneur and a third a Bundeswehr officer and their wives in the name of seventy fathers and mothers of addicts and which was issued at the end of March in the form of an appeal designed to lead to discussions being taken up, turned out to be largely unpopular and highly shocking.

Twenty-seven of the thirty authorities addressed by this appeal chose to draw a veil of silence around themselves. But lately, however, the parents' action has had results.

The drug scene in Bremen is as oppressive as in any other major West German city. There are 400 known addicts and untold unknown drugtakers. Two years ago the Senate formed a study group for research into drug addiction among the young. At several schools confidential teachers swung into action. The Federal state of Bremen spent 24,000 Marks on the project and a further 12,000 Marks are available for 1972.

Young social workers who have been signed up in this campaign and who confess themselves that they are so overworked that they are almost as stoned as the junkies call their work a drop in the ocean.

Last autumn two or three parents of marijuana smokers and heroin addicts struck up contact. They felt it a great relief just to be able to speak to each other. They told of their experiences to friends in similar situations and the group snowballed.

One mother said: "At first it was like going to confession. We came from all walks of life. We were united in our despair, our feelings of guilt and our anxiety, and because of these we had hidden ourselves away. If our children had been stricken with some physical handicap society would have been sympathetic, but when people learnt what was wrong with our children they soon turned the other cheek. We were like the damned until we got together in this group."

After months of swapping experiences and ideas the parents worded their petition. They drew up a letter and a spokesman for their group presented it in person to the Burgomaster of Bremen Hans Koschnick.

It read: "The undersigned citizens of Bremen, sorely tried parents and educators of drug-dependent children, can no longer stay silent on the narcotics problem. We have approached all the relevant offices and have received no help whatsoever, but merely unqualified and unrealistic statements.

"We have no doubt that this problem will soon be confronting the whole of the public at large and not just a small group. Use of hard drugs is rising steadily. Those who take them are becoming younger on average. The summary condemnation of long-haired outcasts designed to appease our regimented and merciless society will not wash for very much longer."

The group of parents summarised in nine paragraphs the experience they had gained as mothers as fathers of drug addicts and their catalogue of wishes, which they said could be satisfied with plenty of imagination and goodwill as well as unconventional methods in a short time and without great expenditure."

Among the points the distressed parents called for were youth centres to take the place of the dives and drug dens where the young now congregate, opportunities for those who have kicked the habit to receive long-term observation and treatment, qualified psychologists to see children at school and the removal of the war on narcotics from the hands of the criminal police.

The parents say that the present laws exert all their energy against a group of mainly young people who are sick not criminal. This is a unique case of the ill being condemned because of their illness.

Statements and evidence given by witnesses who are themselves under the influence of drugs and recognised as drug dependents should on no account be used against people accused of drug offences, the group of parents claims.

Another suggestion made by parents is that the law applying to employment of the severely handicapped should be extended to cover drug addicts and provide them with work suitable for their state of health so that later when they are fully recovered from the ill effects of their drugtaking days they can be fully assimilated into the work force again.

Response to the parents' campaign was pitiful. The offices of the senator responsible for social welfare, youth and sport reacted with indignation, publishing via their press office a list of the measures carried out by the state and culminating in the assertion that the authorities alone could not be expected to provide the answer to the drug problem.

"This problem concerns us all," they claimed and the group of parents does not hesitate to agree with them.

The senator responsible for education had an informatory letter written about the problems of education and diminishing authority, the department for health made no response and the head of the criminal investigation branch said he would like to know who had been interrogated while in a drugged condition.

The parents had asked for talks, but the only group prepared to take them up on this point was a sub-committee of the SPD parliamentary party, which has since then brought questions in the House about this problem.

Disappointed but not beaten the parents refused to give up. They called on the authorities to visit them. All offices sent relatively competent representatives who told of attempts to set up contact centres and community accommodation.

The spokesman for the social welfare authorities made a hard offer. From now on a representative of the parents should be welcomed into the senate study group on narcotics.

When the question of how the real guilty parties, the pushers, dealers and middlemen could be put out of business arose the head of the crime squad said major narcotics dealers were unknown in Bremen.

Most difficult of all the problems was staff. The number of people experienced in dealing with drug addicts was far too small. Those engaged on this work were hopelessly overburdened. Young people who go for withdrawal treatment at Bremen institutions are largely left to their own devices.

"Just about all the good ideas and intentions are coming too late for our children," the Bremen parents' group fears. "Many of them are already hopelessly hooked." But the parents are soldiering on, hoping they can do something for other people's children before it is too late.

Lilo Weinsheimer

(Die Zeit, 23 June 1972)

Parents take action to overcome kindergarten shortage

Handelsblatt
DEUTSCHE WIRTSCHAFTSZEITUNG
Industriekurier

Parents all over West Germany have been prompted into taking action on their own recently because of the shortage of kindergartens and day nurseries.

At the instigation of Nestle's, the chocolate manufacturers, and supported by a number of newspapers, Hamburg educationalist Professor Plickat tracked down some of these parents' initiatives, interviewed members and analysed the answers. In cooperation with the Health Ministry, he has now published his findings.

No accurate figures are available for the number of private kindergarten schemes. Surveys covering only certain areas suggest that there are probably one thousand. Three hundred addresses are known.

The aims of most of the schemes described by their initiators with adjectives and nouns such as anti-authoritarian, emancipatory, Socialisation, independence, critical faculties, creativity and tolerance.

About one third of the schemes covered by Professor Plickat's survey described themselves as pre-school groups but it is rare for them to state that their aim is to prepare children for school life.

Almost all the schemes are subsidised mainly by the local authorities. The parents' own contribution varies between sixty to eighty Marks a month when the child attends for only half a day and between one hundred and two hundred Marks when it attends the whole day.

The main difficulties facing the schemes are financial worries, shortage of space, complaints from nearby residents and problems with the authorities.

Another important problem is that the main burden is borne by a small number of parents while others look upon the scheme as a service industry providing them with more leisure time.

(Handelsblatt, 23 June 1972)

Conservationists explore new methods to sway authorities



Ecotactics, the handbook of American conservation campaigns, was passed from hand to hand at an environment congress at the Theodor Heuss Academy. A young girl delegate attending the congress had brought it along.

The strategy, or "ecotatics", outlined in the book is only roughly similar to that practised by West German campaigners. Public campaigns in America tend to bear the stamp of youth, campaigners are more aware of their civil rights, they are more skilled in financial matters and more unconventional when trying to influence conservational policies. It is mainly young academics at the universities who draw up the basic principles of "ecotactics".

West German campaigns of this type are, in comparison, always on the defensive. Because of their ignorance of the law and as legal advisers on questions of the environment are rare, they usually adopt the style of established associations and seek assurances. Young peoples always take part in the campaigns but it is those who are no longer so young that seem to have the influence.

Volkmar Dick, himself a member of a group campaigning in Pforzheim, has some 350 public conservation campaigns listed in his files. He tried to analyse them at the congress and picked out fifteen to twenty of the groups as interesting examples.

Dick deals with the strategy employed by public campaigns in this country and finds that it has changed. Up to now groups were formed to protest against a specific project such as the extension of airport runways, the building of an oil refinery or the construction of a new arterial road. Once their aim had been achieved or the battle with the authorities had been lost, these groups were dissolved.

Longer-term aims are now being pursued. A significant trend is the merger of these groups with organisations such as nature protection associations. But associations always used to aim at cooperation with the authorities. A retired public official was always appointed to the executive. The new groups on the other land aim at confrontation with authorities.

A group in Karlsruhe is not typical but it is one of the most interesting examples of this kind in the Federal Republic. Fifteen academics joined forces some years ago as they claimed the city stank. Within the limits imposed by the authorities, the group gained the support of specialists, recruited mainly from the Technical University. Now it is not only the stink the group worries about.

Thirty chemists and fifty atomic physicists belong to committees appointed by the group. Spokesman Hans-Helmut Wüstenhagen stated that these committees began recruiting members. Campaigns range from the distribution of pamphlets about noise measurements and drinking water analyses conducted against the wishes of the authorities to proposals about the future developments of urban communities.

Recent campaigns have been aimed at banning new installations that might cause pollution in the over-industrialised region on the Upper Rhine. Plans to extend an oil refinery at Karlsruhe were abandoned after 34,860 people signed a petition and submitted it to the authorities.

One of the fiercest campaigns took place at the Nuclear Research Centre in Karlsruhe. The group started to conduct a survey among seven hundred scientists to find out how safe reactors were but the Nuclear Research Association put a stop

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■ CENTREPIECE

Foreign Minister Walther Rathenau assassinated fifty years ago

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Slogans composed by nationalist organisations blatantly called for the death of Foreign Minister Walther Rathenau and dragged his Jewish origin into the issue.

Another murder chant dealt with Chancellor Josef Wirth and a nationalist newspaper offered a prize to the reader producing the best song around the words that Ebert, Wirth and Scheidemann should go the same way as Erzberger.

Matthias Erzberger, a member of the Centre Party and Minister of Finance in 1919, had been shot by two members of an extreme right-wing organisation in August 1921.

Philipp Scheidemann, a Social Democrat and Prime Minister of the 1919 government, was seriously injured by two extreme right-wingers at the beginning of June 1922.

A few weeks later on 24 June 1922 – fifty years ago – Foreign Minister Rathenau was the victim of a right-wing assassination.

This was the era of political murder or, to be more accurate, murder for which political motivation was claimed. It was the first stage of the battle against a Republic that could never consolidate itself and became the victim of the same enemies ten years later.

Three and a half years previously the new Republic had risen in the most difficult of conditions from the rubble of the previous regime. It bore the stigma of defeat and was not only confronted with revolutionary conflict but also with the envoys of a peace treaty who exacerbated what was anyway a helpless economic situation. Looking back, it could well be asked how a democratic State could ever have come into being in such a hopeless situation.

The political strength of the moderate left and centre did however prove great enough to take on the responsibility and steer the ship of State past all the dangers facing it.

The extreme left had used up most of its strength in the months of revolution but the extreme right now gathered after months of inactivity and tried to fight the Republic and its representatives with all the means at its disposal.

The aims of the nationalist groups were based on a conglomeration of confused motives and resentment. But their activities were all marked by venomous hate. This hate reached its peak in the case of Rathenau – the Foreign Minister was not only a reviled republican, he was also a Jew. Anti-Semitism had already become an important part of political rabble-rousing in 1922.

Rathenau did not press to become Foreign Minister and he did not appear suited to this post. Born in 1867 the son of an industrialist (his father founded the AEG concern), the young Rathenau long vacillated between a career as industrialist and one as artist.

He was said to possess considerable ability as a pianist. Max Liebermann wanted to encourage him to become a painter. But he decided to study mathematics, physics and chemistry.

But he did not give up his writing. He produced a number of philosophical treatises and discussed writing with Frank Wedekind, Gerhart Hauptmann, Richard Dehmel, Rainer Maria Rilke and Martin Buber among others.

With Martin Buber more than anyone else he was able to discuss the feature that he felt, not unjustifiably, made him a second-class citizen – his Jewish origins.

"If I had the inclination to enter the world of politics, you know that all exterior circumstances would have prevented this," he wrote to a girlfriend in 1911. "I could escape prejudice by changing my faith but I am convinced this would only consolidate the wrong done by the ruling classes." Filled with Prussian patriotism, he once claimed: "The overwhelming majority of German Jews feel they are members of only one nation – the German nation."

By 1914 Rathenau was on the board of 86 German and 21 foreign firms and amassed considerable wealth as a result. But despite his involvement in industry he put himself at the disposal of the State when war broke out.

He made full use of his experiences when organising the war economy but he was also sceptical about the outcome of the war. As early as 1917 he dealt with the economic chaos that was to be expected.

He tended to support increased State control and planning in industry, thought of abolishing inherited wealth and wanted to scale down class barriers, though he did not develop a political system from all this. He also believed that an economic union covering all the countries in the world was the only way to establish international order.

Rathenau joined the Democratic Party after the defeat of November 1918. He was a candidate for the National Assembly but failed to get himself elected. He did not enter public service again until July 1920 when Josef Wirth sent him to a conference in Spa discussing German disarmament and reparations.

Rathenau was originally opposed to the Versailles Treaty but he gradually came round to the view that Germany only had a chance of revising it if she showed herself willing to fulfil its conditions.

These rational calculations brought him the rampant hostility of nationalist circles and the fatal reputation of a politician who wished to accept the Versailles Treaty.

It was only with reluctance that he accepted Wirth's offer of the Reconstruction Ministry in May 1921. He resigned five months later when his party left the governing coalition.

But he did head the German delegation to the Cannes conference in January 1922 at Wirth's special request. He held out some prospect of a cut in the amount of reparations to be paid.

(Photo: Staatsbibliothek Berlin)

But the resignation of French premier Aristide Briand put an end to the talks and Rathenau now pinned all his hopes on the European conference planned in Genoa for April.

When German Foreign Minister Rosen resigned the same day, Rathenau was faced by the difficult decision of whether to take on the post or not. He accepted hesitantly though he believed that he could achieve at least one of his aims at Genoa – an easing of the provisions of the Versailles Treaty. As an expert in the field of economics and finance he felt able to achieve some degree of importance in the reparations question.

Rathenau thought that relations with the West were more important than those with the Soviet Union and therefore looked upon the Foreign Office's plans for an agreement with the Russians with a certain amount of scepticism.

The Soviet Union was taking part in a European conference for the first time in Genoa. When the talks with Western statesman failed once again to produce any results, Rathenau submitted and negotiated with the Russians in Rapallo.

But in the few months of his life that were still remaining to him he tended to look upon the Treaty of Rapallo as a failure. Western politicians now looked upon him with distrust. At home the charge of Bolshevist was added to charges of Jew, defeatist and traitor.

Despite negligible initial success Rathenau rightly believed that this policy of small steps would gradually lessen the burdens imposed by the Versailles treaty. But in the Reichstag German Nationalist Karl Helfferich, the spokesman of the nationalist opposition, claimed that his policy of fulfilment has only brought Germany misery and hardship.

The political atmosphere grew more and more heated and attacks concentrated more and more upon Rathenau until the shots fell that killed Rathenau as he was on his way to the Foreign Ministry on the morning of 24 June.

The murderers – former officers Erwin Kern and Hermann Fischer and former Sea Cadet Ernst Werner Techow – were members of the ultra right-wing Consul Organisation that had resulted from the Ehrhardt Naval Brigade. They were also members of the nationalist organisation that went furthest with its anti-Semitism. Kern and Fischer shot themselves on Burg Saaleck after being chased by police. The Nazis later set up a memorial to them there.

"The heinous act did not concern the individual Rathenau alone, it concerned Germany as a whole," President Ebert stated at the grave of the assassinated Foreign Minister. Today the heinous act is seen as an early indication of what nationalist and racialist incitement would cause ten years later.

Leo Sillner

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 24 June 1972)

Continued from page 4

to the campaign by confiscating the questionnaires.

A Rhine Valley Campaign has now been set up along with groups from France and Switzerland. Forty groups are participating. Greater effort is being made to *recruit politicians and* organisations from both left and right wings. The first organisation to state its interest officially was the Trades Union Confederation, the second was the Association of House and Landowners.

Membership fees bring a modest sum into the kitty. Other towns that ask the group for advice might well be presented with a bill in future. A "Save the Rhine Campaign" is being planned. The head of Burda, the publishing house is said to be interested.

Will that wake up the group's competitors in commerce? Advisory boards for public campaigns in the conservation sphere are in their infancy. A one-man agency in Bonn has three customers and there are also the usual-type advisory services that study the available material.

A conservation group in Hanover relies on its own instincts and has entered into an odd alliance. The group consists of about 150 mainly young members organised in a sort of council democracy, to use Jürgen Isensee's words. But it still cooperates with two associations of traditional character in order to set up an environment centre in the city.

This new conservation group raises enough money to pay its way through publications and its own newspaper. It measures the amount of carbon monoxide to be found at busy road junctions, collects rubbish that people have thrown away in local woods and undertakes similar practical schemes. But the group's main function is to attack unlimited economic growth.

Will the Karlsruhe group form the hard core of the nationwide association that has been set up to appoint delegates to the "conservation forum" advocated by the government?

Time will reveal the extent to which this body operates in the usual advisory capacity while not however avoiding harsh confrontation with the authorities and industry.

Kev L. Ulrich

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 23 June 1972)

■ ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Inflation can be beaten but only by making sacrifices

Again and again the question is being asked: can anything be done about the depreciation in the value of money or are the dismal jimmies who claim we must simply get used to inflation really right. In fact it gets more difficult to fight this scourge the further it is allowed to progress. But it is by no means a fate to which we must be resigned. We can *return to stability if the right steps are* taken.

Choosing the right treatment involves understanding in advance the bugs that cause the malady. The main offenders are the excessive increase in government spending and the financing of shortages in the budget by taking out loans that tend to be inflationary, wage and salary increases far in excess of the levels warranted by the state of the economy, the limitation of competitiveness by agreements and mergers, price rises all over the world, and the present dramatic influx of speculative money from abroad and flood of money loaned by banks in this country.

The most pressing need at the moment is to cut government spending. Economic Affairs and Finance Minister Karl Schiller has taken a step in the right direction by issuing instructions that the budget for 1972 should be cut by 2,500 million Marks.

But even this sum, which the Cabinet obviously will not accept, is too small. In addition to this Federal state and local governments must also be persuaded to tighten the purse-strings. The simplest and most effective method would be to give the order for a general cut-back in public spending of about four per cent. Furthermore all governments and local authorities should be prevented from starting new works, except where these were of vital and immediate importance, and a limitation of new loans.

Fortunately since the end of last year trades unions have not been so demanding over wages and salaries. But even the seven-per-cent increases arising from the latest wage-scale agreements exceed the level of productivity by some way and are not conducive to stability. But *this is a margin that must on no account* be exceeded.

Workers should show understanding when their unions explain to them that only in this way can prices be curbed.

But entrepreneurs must also toe the line to contribute towards stability. One way in which they could help is to increase competition and not embark on price agreements. The Monopolies Commission which has recently been punishing companies involved in illicit cartels with steep fines must be even more active.

The amendment to monopolies legislation which the Bundestag and the government have delayed for so long should be passed without further delay. Politicians should not only demand discipline when it comes to prices, but should also stop aiming not at full employment but at permanent overemployment so that competition is systematically stifled.

As a result of increasing prices all over the world there is less opportunity for putting pressure on domestic producers to keep their prices down with the threat of cheaper imports. Nevertheless we should not take too much notice of the constant litany about how West Germany cannot go it alone in getting off the international inflation merry-go-round.

It is impossible to do this one-hundred per cent, but it is possible to do it to a limited extent as the Federal Republic proved up till 1969.

But the Bundesbank must get to work more than anyone, dropping its present hesitant attitude and drawing in the credti reins with avengeance. The latest increase in the minimum required currency reserves at banks intended to cancel out the effects on spending power of the repayment of Karl Schiller's *Konjunkturzuschlag* (10% repayable temporay tax surcharge implemented in 1970) have turned out to be far too slight. This should be corrected in the very near future.

The enormous amount of loaned money coming from finance houses at present shows that the opportunities for them to rediscount at the Bundesbank are still far too generous. A further cutback in the rediscount limit seems unavoidable.

Certainly a more restrictive course of this kind would be more favourable in the event of an increase in interest rates. It would be an added incentive for entrepreneurs in this country to raise loans abroad where interest rates are lower. In order to counter this an increase in the compulsory cash deposits required from companies raising external loans is essential. In addition the Bundesbank must soak up all the increased flood of cash from abroad by an immediate increase in minimum reserves.

If in the long run the flood of speculative money proves too great the only alternative will be to attack it directly by resorting to the foreign trade legislation. Even mentioning this possibility is distasteful to the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* which has always been a champion of the free transfer of capital.

But if free capital transfer means that the Federal Republic is unable to control depreciation in the value of money because other countries are not playing the game by the rules then there is no alternative to curtailing this freedom partially.

Of course all the measurers mooted in this article are open to expressions of concern and cavilling objections. But there has been enough talk already. Now is the time to act. If we want stability it is time to pepare ourselves to make the necessary sacrifices.

Hans Roeper

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 20 June 1972)

No call for raising Bank Rate yet

The more this country's econ moves towards a renewed econ boom the nearer is the day when Bundesbank will issue the first warn shot across the bows. The next increa Bank Rate is on the way. But when?

At the beginning of June the Bank Association expressed its regret that Central Bank Committee, meeting Berlin, had restricted itself to raising level of minimum required reserve order to counteract the force of the money coming into circulation with repayment of Karl Schiller's ten-per temporary tax surcharge.

Finance houses for one would to see Bank Rate raised since it p large proportion of the interest rate charge on loans.

But at the moment there are limitations applied to official poli with regard to interest charges. Even the present interest rates in the Fed Republic it is still tempting for compa here to raise loans abroad. If Bank Ra increased the fear is that it will ha stronger detrimental effect on the bal of payments than its beneficial effec currency stability.

The Government would regard a hi Bank Rate at this time as a Trojan ho As far as economic policies are concer it would give force to the decisions to cut back the 1972 budget, but on capital market a higher rate would the fate of the nominal interest ra 7.75 per cent, for which Professor S ler is at present fighting tooth and

Apart from finance houses, situation with regard to yield seems to have reached stability, would benefit for certain from creased Bank Rate at this time.

Even with an economy that is pi up the Bundesbank must exercise cauti when dealing with credit matters foreign interest rates have been creased, which, perhaps in conjuncti with a strengthening of this count "foreign economic protection", will us the required room for manoeuvre.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 15 June 1972)

Fears of continued inflation grow

Recession never came. The situation of the West German economy at mid-year is that no further support is needed, but at the same time it is far too early to start applying the economic brakes.

Nevertheless in this economic cycle there are signs that pressure is likely to be put on prices earlier than in other economic cycles. The perils are harder to fight this time as well, since the Bundesbank has to deal with other European countries that are growing closer together and closer to this country all the time and which are also bitten by the inflation bug. The Bundesbank's hands are tied by an international monetary system that remains unstable.

Thus finance policy has an even greater role to play in the task of keeping down inflation. For this reason the government's failure to keep borrowing down to a level that would not be injurious to the economy is a grave matter. Government spending threatens to put the heat on the economy to an extent that would be verging on the excessive even during a period of recession.

Just a few months ago the picture looked vastly different and economic pundits were forecasting a recession. But there was no repeat of 1966/67 — no fear for jobs, no unemployment carefully concealed by whittling away the numbers of foreign workers in the country, no reluctance to spend on the part of the consumer.

No economic cycle ever exactly resembles any other. Research into the influences at work this time to curb prices and the deformation of the economic structure that a super-boom brings with it would reveal vital political forces.

In 1966 there was government crisis in which the lack of an economic stabilisation policy had a large role to play, particularly in the latter stages of the boom.

This time the budgetary situation is more precarious. But this matter has only come to the attention of the public at a much later stage on account of the emphasis that had been laid on foreign affairs such as the Ostpolitik. The question of stability has cropped up this time after the lowest point of the economic cycle has been passed.

Furthermore the currency decisions taken in Washington in December removed an important element of uncertainty at a critical time in the economic cycle. In addition there was the slackening off of the rate of wage and salary rises, which was confirmed by the result of the battle in the metalworking industries of Baden-Württemberg. Finally a mild winter meant that there was no major drop in the level of employment.

Thanks to the readiness of the general public to spend, the consumer goods industries hardly noticed the slight temporary recession. In branches of the economy that are not far removed from the consumer, such as commerce and the building trade, the concessions that were made in wage negotiations had little to do with the requirements of stability. In other branches of industry, too, there is growing optimism, though with reservations. As we enter the second half of 1972 there is general agreement that this period will bring the next economic upturn.

Opinions diverge on how strong the boom will be. There are major gaps between the various branches and even in specific sectors the data are too complicated to be analysed accurately. One example of this is the motor trade where the usual spring boom has not been so marked — but in this branch specific problems affecting the trade as a whole and some makes more than others have been in evidence.

The Ifo economic research institute in Munich stated recently that the recovery was evident, but of late predictions had been on the cautious side. In recent days Ifo had recorded signs of an increase in capital investment. As a whole the indications of recovery are obvioulsy more a psychological matter than facts based on figures. But the mood is one that is backed up by the BDI's annual report.

A slow build-up could do nothing but good. This time it would be wrong to expect productivity to increase as markedly and for such a long peri after the 1967 slump. There are reserves on the labour market. Produ capacities are being used more exten than they were then. Senior econ Heinrich Irmler of the Bundesb reckons that the amount of expansi be squeezed from the production ca city already available will be exhaus by the end of the year.

There are dangers inherent in However pleasing it may be from employment point of view that the of this economic cycle was naught than a pause for breath prices are danger from a renewed boom coming soon. Every economic cycle has brou high rates of price increases in its wa The last one pushed up prices by six cent per annum. In each economic the lapse of time before the pr increases began to level out has increas

This time the upturn is coming wh prices are still rising by five per cent. N all the increases are inflationary, howe agricultural producer prices being example. But as far as the pub concerned this makes no odds. So next round of wage and salary nego tions could bring new perils.

Precisely because there are fe chances for stabilisation policies to ge work in this as compared with previ economic cycles it is up to fina policymakers to use the room manoeuvre remaining to the utmo There should be no dissenting voices this score at the next session of Co certed Action.

Gerhard Schar

(Die Welt, 13 June 1972)

■ CONSUMER WORLD

Antagonism to closing hours law increases

It is 6.30pm. All over the Federal Republic shops are putting up the shutters, clearing shelves and packing up for the day. A law dating back to 1956 dictates their actions. And housewives are not happy about the ruling.

Working women (and men) are hardest hit by this law. For of the 64.5 hours a week that shops are allowed to open 41 come within office and factory working hours. So working people have only 23.5 hours to choose from with an extra four on the first Saturday of every month when shops are allowed to stay open later. But in these few hours the streets and parking places become so packed, not to mention the shops themselves, that all the pleasure goes out of buying things.

Between 5 and 7pm fifteen million West German pedestrians thread their way through seven million cars. No wonder that this is the worst time of day for accidents. According to a survey about a quarter of the working population has only about 45 minutes to shop. With shop assistants suddenly overburdened and long queues everywhere even this time cannot be used to best advantage.

The greatest cry against extending shop opening hours comes from retail traders. Of the 400,000 retailers in this country *only* five per cent use permisisible opening hours to the full. Some shopkeepers even claim they would like to shut earlier.

Hubertus Tessar of the Retailers Institute puts this down to the fact that "consumers do not use shops sufficiently after 6pm at night. There is just not the consumer interest, he says.

That is the point — shops are not used after 6pm so much because of the mad fight. What woman would buy a dress at that time, knowing she has to fight for a changing room with umpteen other women? The alternative is to buy a dress on spec, and that is too risky.

A woman wants to try on two or three dresses before she makes the big decision and to do so in 25 minutes she would need to be a quick-change artist. Measurements must be taken and alterations made. A woman needs to shop at leisure. Is it any wonder she is reluctant to join the mad rush at six?

Here than a half of the working female population would like the shops to stay open till eight. And men too.

It is all very well considering the time gained by shoppers, but what about the time lost to shop staffs? Hubertus Tessar said: "We've got enough staff difficulties already. There are 150,000 vacant places. If shop hours are changed and staff expected to work on well into the evening we are likely to lose even more experienced workers, and with them we will lose the service to the customer which is a vital part of our trade."

About half of the 2,200,000 workers in the retail trade are part timers who could adjust to different working hours. Customer service in other industries is operated on shift systems. This is a benefit not only to the economy and productivity but also to the staff who are able to arrange their leisure time more freely. Shop staff who want to do shopping generally have to do so in their lunch break. Many would be glad to work shifts until 8pm if it meant they had mornings free for a lie-in and leisurely tour of the shops.

A survey conducted among the staff of a chain store showed that sixty per cent of the staff would be prepared to work evenings as long as they were given a reasonable amount of time off in the mornings. But the union representatives of shopworkers do not seem prepared to draw the consequences from such surveys.

As far as the consumer's call for longer shop hours goes the retailers reply with a warning that this will mean price rises. But the Institute of Commerce at Saarbrücken University under Professor Tietz has asserted that longer shop hours would mean a far more economic use of production capacity and personnel. Turnover is dependent on the hours of opening and longer hours could mean a 35 to fifty per cent increase in turnover.

In a modern shop there are opportunities for rationalisation which would make increased turnover possible without increasing staff. One curiosity is that in Belgium precisely the same argument is being put forward against lengthening shop opening hours, namely that this would push up prices. This shows how opinions differ.

Another important argument brought up by retailers is that lengthening opening hours would not benefit the economy as a whole but simply involve a shift of emphasis with the larger stores taking an even larger slice of the cake.

On this score Bruno Tietz' report states: "The present opening hours also hamstring the shop-on-the-corner. It in particular could benefit from greater freedom of opening hours to give customers tailor-made service. All in all the Retail Premises (Hours of Opening) Act has not been able to halt the trend towards larger stores. In comparison with the United States there are proportionately four times more shops in the Federal Republic."

There is another point in favour of evening opening. Life in the centre of West German towns tends to come to a full stop at 6.30. Shops open late would help stop city centres becoming deserts. Family shopping in the evenings would become a new trend. Mum, Dad and the kids would go for a walk in town, have a meal together and look round the shops.

West Germans who go abroad for their holidays in the next few weeks to get away from it all will also be able to get away from shut-up shops. In Switzerland for example. Since the beginning of the year shops in Zürich shopping centre have stayed open till 9pm every Thursday. A referendum was held and two out of three people voted in favour of the move.

The main benefactor is the customer. He can take his time over purchases and compare prices. But the staff benefit too. They are given generous leisure-time allowances to make up for their shift-work. And the shops also benefit: in the three hours between six and nine 50 per cent of the total turnover in the Shopping Centre is chalked up. Cash registers ring out merrily and prices have not risen. Retailers who do not want to join in still shut up shop at 6.30. We could learn from our neighbours.

About one in two people in this country would like to see amendments to the present law. Two late shopping days every week would be fine. The customer is always right and he should not be declared wrong in this important matter.

Gustav-Adolf Bähr

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 18 June 1972)

Shop closing hours in Europe

△ No legal restrictions ☐ Unified law for whole country ○ General law with regional variations

UK ○ 6–8
Norway ○ 5–7
Sweden ○ 8–10
Denmark ☐ (Fri 8pm) 6.30
FRG ☐ 6.30
Austria ☐ 6.30
Switzerland ○ 6.30
Italy ○ 7.30–10
Spain ☐ 8
France △ 7–10
Belgium △ 7–9
Netherlands ○ 7–8
627

Egg prejudice confounded

Two-hundred housewives were recently invited by a Chamber of Agriculture in the Rhineland to eat eggs. Each was given three boiled eggs to taste. One came from broiler chickens that had never see the light of day, the second from farmyard chickens that were allowed a certain amount of freedom and the third from completely free-ranging hens.

No indication was given to the women where each egg came from. In a critical frame of mind they tested the three types of egg and at the end a vast majority agreed that the broiler egg tasted the best.

The summary from the Chamber of Agriculture: the theory that eggs from broiler fouls are not so tasty is based on prejudice. The important factor is the feed given to hens.

And the old controversy about brown and white eggs? Thirty per cent of consumers are wholeheartedly in favour of brown eggs. But the colour question is irrelevant. What is inside the egg is the same in both cases. There are some types of chicken that lay brown eggs and others that do not. But brown layers are not so prolific as their whie-laying cousins and therefore producers prefer the white varieties.

Most consumers are also fussy about the colour of the egg yolk. The darker it is, the better, they feel. So many egg producers mix paprika in with their chicken-feed. This isnot an underhand trick — in fact paprika contains plenty of vitamin C which is good for the egg eater as well as the chicken.

Another old wives' tale about eggs is that they make you passionate. Only one in three of the 200 housewives ruled out the possibility that eggs had an effect on their sex life. Eggs do not in fact make you any more passionate than pork chops or roast beef, but they are easier on the purse.

No side effects can be attributed to egg eating even when this is pushed to excess. Up to six eggs a day are not likely to do any harm. (Nordwest Zeitung, 23 June 1972)

TRENDS

Camping cashes in

West Germans are spending more and more on camping and water sports. They are no longer content with buying the cheapest goods but are tending to go for quality leisure-time items.

Neckermann's mail order house can confirm this trend. Take tents for instance. In 1968 twenty-four per cent of all tents sold were the cheapest style, costing about 200 Marks, while only about five per cent of customers purchased Neckermann's most expensive at approximately 1,000 Marks. Last year the picture had changed completely. Only fifteen per cent bought the cheapest while the dearest commanded twelve per cent of all buyers.

Johannes Neckermann said that many campers are now also going in for a smaller second tent to be used on short exoursions during long touring holidays while the main tent stays firmly rooted, since a small tent is easier to erect on overnight stops. (Handelsblatt, 8 June 1972)

Beer booming

The average German drank 144 litres of beer last year, more than ever before. Apart from an increase in beer imports there was also an upturn in the production of West German breweries by 3.4 per cent to ninety million hectolitres. This was also a record.

Alongside West German beers imported beers enjoyed increasing popularity. Imports increased from 446,000 hectolitres in 1970 to 468,000 last year. Among the most popular beers were those from Czechoslovakia and Denmark.

Bottled and canned beers enjoyed proportionately greater popularity in the past two years. In 1971 of all beer sold 69.4 per cent was canned or bottled, 3.7 per cent more than in 1970.

The figures wore supplied by the West German Brewers Association in its annual report published in Bonn recently.

(Neue Hannoversche Presse, 20 June 1972)

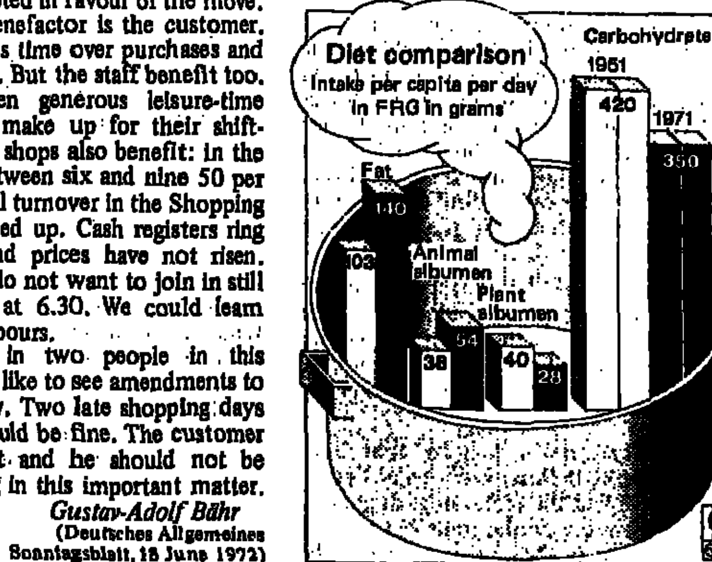
Gems from Pforzheim

According to the Chairman of the Jewellers and Silversmith's Association, Artur Grosse, 71 per cent of jewellery manufactured in the Federal Republic comes from Pforzheim, where the Association has its headquarters.

On the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the Association Herr Grosse stated in Pforzheim that thanks to the work of the Association German jewellery was once again one of the world's leaders.

In all 208 companies producing jewellery and silverware belong to the Association, whose Chairman Herr Grosse has been for 25 years.

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 15 June 1972)



■ MOTORING

Magnetic suspension railways – an answer for city traffic

Münchner Merkur

It cannot be said often enough that there is no such thing as the ideal urban community as far as motor traffic is concerned. No one need even mention Los Angeles as the text-book example of a city geared to the requirements of the motor car that has proved a failure.

For long everyone in built-up areas in this country has known from personal experience where the vicious circle of more cars and more good roads leads.

There are traffic jams at peak periods, you waste time, run a greater risk of a pile-up, breathe poisonous air, are tortured by intolerable noise. The city is obliterated by a sea of pressed steel, the individual is driven into sardine-can shoals at traffic lights and the motor car terrorises the entire environment.

Even so the ADAC, this country's major motoring organisation, continues, needless to say, to advocate encouragement of private motoring. At the recent conference held by the Protestant Academy in Tutzing, Bavaria, the ADAC went only as far as to state that commuters ought to travel by public transport.

The increasing number of motor vehicles registered in the Federal Republic (by 1982 one person in two will, statistically, be a car-owner) is virtually made out to be a godsend, the blame being laid firmly at the door of the slow progress made in the way of staggered working hours and the antiquated Retail Premises (Opening Hours) Act.

Almost by way of an afterthought environmental conservation is reckoned by the ADAC to be "not merely a fashion trend but an urgent necessity," one contribution towards which would, it is claimed, be more smoothly running traffic. It is, of course, true enough that a car that is able to keep up a reasonable speed burns up its fuel in a manner more congenial to the environment.

The ADAC's line of thought nonetheless bears witness to the intention of merely remedying a single symptom in a situation calling for a thorough reappraisal.

If urban traffic problems are to be solved in the near future public transport facilities must be expanded with a will, the target being to convince the man in the street that driving to work is pointless, buses and trains being more convenient and more economical.

It is not that one is unaware of the fact that industrial production would decline as a result, leading to lower exports and higher unemployment, but it is also as well to recall the words of Hans-Jochen Vogel, outgoing Oberbürgermeister of Munich, who once noted that "Every billion we spend on roadbuilding takes us nearer to the death of the city as we know it."

By the end of the century eighty per cent of the world's population will be city-dwellers and if the demise of the city is to be forestalled priorities must be rearranged to give pride of place to public transport.

The only drawback now that both Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm and Krauss-Maffei have laid the technological groundwork for feasible public transport systems of the future is the extent to which the politicians feel able to put plans into effect.

Krauss-Maffei's Transurban magnetic suspension railway would appear to be a realistic proposition that will live up to its promise. It consists of two continuous conveyor belts in a passenger tube that can both be laid underground and mounted in mid-air on pylons.

Instead of conveyor belts travelling at a speed of up to twenty kilometres an hour (twelve mph) cabs can be mounted on the tracks and conveyed at a maximum speed of sixty kilometres an hour (38 mph).

The propulsion system is the electromagnetic linear motor, an old friend that generates a mobile magnetic field and sustains next to no power loss at the low speeds at which the conveyor belts will be travelling.

The planners hit on a technical refinement for Transurban stations. The top speed of a mode of transport that passengers can enter or leave with or without luggage while it is still on the move is three kilometres or two miles an hour. How are passengers to board the Transurban when it travels at a continuous speed of twenty kilometres an hour?

This problem has been solved by means of a rotating disc synchronised to the speed of one or other of the conveyor belts. The disc is entered from the hub and the passenger hardly notices the increase in speed as he walks towards the outer rim of the disc and the conveyor belt.

Transurban, or so the manufacturers hope, will meet the requirements of both users and operators, not to mention those of the environment. Passengers will benefit from swift travel, short waits, comfort and protection from the elements. Local authorities will, so it is claimed, find it inexpensive to install and maintain.

The first cost estimates for a kilometre of overhead Transurban in both directions proved staggeringly low. Five million Marks may be a fair amount of money but it is nothing in comparison with the 42.5 million Marks or so each kilometre of Munich's new underground railway is costing.

The lack of expense is due to the fact that lightweight construction is more than adequate for the Transurban. What is more, the new system is considered to be most congenial to the environment since it makes next to no noise and has next to no waste or by-products.



Artist's impression of Siemens' suspension railway (Photo: Siem

The advantages are clear enough. Overhead railway span or both traffic jams and suburbs and are completely compatible with all other forms of public transport. City traffic is not obstructed by the Transurban and because it will, for the most part, be channelled overhead, the cost of land will not be overwhelming.

As regards operational safety, the research team point out that it will boast dual-circuit brakes, both electrical and mechanical. And should there be a power cut the Transurban will not collapse or nose-dive into the ground.

It will also, moreover, be an economic proposition when operating for twenty hours a day and with a three-hour maximum capacity of 40,000 passengers an hour. Endurance tests are to be begin next year and Krauss-Maffei hope to produce the first prototype in 1974.

Godel Rosenberg

(Münchner Merkur, 14 June 1972)

Cheap car tax

Tax on electric-powered vehicles has been halved by the Bonn Finance Ministry. As they have no cubic capacity to go by, electric vehicles are taxed according to weight.

A BMW 1600 costs roughly 280 Marks a year in road tax. An electric version of the same model, which will be used during in Munich Olympics, will cost only 88 Marks in year in tax.

The motor industry is not yet in a position to manufacture large numbers of electric cars, though. Battery power is not yet economic enough.

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 10 June 1972)

Two-year cars

Hamburger Abendblatt

The Motor Trade Association notes with some concern that motorists' habits are clearly changing. The Association's president, Christian Democratic Bundestag member Ernst Müller-Hermann of Bremen, recently told the Association of Renault Dealers in Frankfurt that the considerable increase in the cost of repairs has made motorists give serious thought to reselling their cars after two years rather than three, when repairs start in earnest.

Last winter in particular, he claimed, there was a definite trend among motorists to view their cars as a mere means of transport. As long as the vehicle still drove, more and more motorists were not bothering to take it into the nearest garage when minor upsets occurred.

Müller-Hermann expressed concern that only 37 per cent of used cars are sold via dealers, as opposed to eighty per cent prior to the introduction of value added tax on the sale of second-hand cars. It could well be, he felt, that vehicle safety would decline as a result.

In an amendment to the VAT Act the Christian Democrats planned for this reason to make only the difference between purchase and resale price liable to value added tax.

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 15 June 1972)

Siemens' H-Bahn

Handelsblatt
Deutsche Wirtschaftszeitung
Industriekurier

Siemens have developed a city-c public transport system called H-Bahn, or suspension railway, for alongside the country's urban U- S-Bahns (underground and sub electric railways).

The H-Bahn will consist of an matic network of individual suspe cabins seating eight. Three cabins c coupled to make up a train and there be standing-room for a further passengers at peak periods.

On individual routes the cabins travel in swift succession in vari prearranged directions. They will stop where indicated or on request.

Siemens reckon passenger capacity be a maximum 15,000 seats an hour per direction. Construction costs only ten per cent of the current co building underground railways.

The technical equipment of the will be housed in the narrow carrying The system can be easily mounted pylons and will not unduly obstruct traffic.

The technical make-up of the syst straightforward and easy to servi deliberately so. The cabins are pow by a linear motor and run at a st speed of 35 kilometres an hour (a over twenty mph). Bearing in mind furthest braking distance the dis between cabins or trains will al constant.

The points make use of magnets have the required effect on the carr rail. The shunting system is so designed enable cabins to travel in swift success even though their destinations may dif

The passenger books a seat by push a button on an electronic town plan the stations, which are 500 metres or apart. The ticket that is printed indicates the number of the cabin, stop and, in certain circumstances, a waiting-period. The passenger then through a turnstile and waits fo cabin.

At present Siemens are conduc computerised simulator trials in Mun using the city of Erlangen as the mo Mechanical developments are aimed the construction of a circular perimental route in Erlangen. Full-s endurance trials will then be carried on the 280-metre circuit with its po and separate station sidings.

This trial section is scheduled completion in the second half of 1973.

(Handelsblatt, 14 June 19

THE ARTS

Spiegel Institute probes writers' working conditions

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

"I question the mental health of anyone wishing to become a freelance writer," Walter Jens comments. Jens himself is a writer though he can always fall back on his regular income as a professor.

Heinrich Böll, a self-employed writer, states on the other hand that anyone who is put off by advice of this kind will never be a writer.

Anybody finding these statements, taken from a recent television programme, rather over-generalised will find details about the job of author – "a dinosaur in the technological age" – in a 450-page paperback that has just been published – *Autorenreport* (Authors Report) by Karla Fohrbeck and Andreas Wiesand.

There is for example the question of how much a writer can earn. Writer number 1,582 wrote a pornographic novel for Beate Uhse's publishing concern and netted eight thousand Marks for his work.

Writer number 225 worked four months on a political book for Rowohlt Verlag and earned 1,300 Marks. Writer number 32 spent three days typing 24 foolscap sides for the Ferenczy agency in Munich and received nine thousand Marks. Writer number 116 spent two years thinking up poems for a book of poetry – he only earned two thousand Marks.

The *Spiegel* Institute for Project Studies commissioned a survey of 1,693 writers last year. Rudolf Augstein, the *Spiegel* publisher who gave the Institute financial backing before it was wound up, proudly announced in the foreword to *Autorenreport* that more had been written about this book before publication than about any other work.

Spiegel magazine itself had something to do with that. Some of the findings of the survey were published to the weekly news-magazine in the middle of December 1971, though in summarised form that could result in misunderstandings. The periodical found that hardship among authors was not so great as was sometimes claimed.

The findings of the Hamburg sociological researchers prompted months of controversy in the literary world. "A *Spiegel* inquiry is blandly trying to tell me that regularly-paid penny-a-liners and creative writers are one and the same thing, equal servants of the media facing equal risks and all well cared for," author Peter Rühmkorf fumed. "No, gentlemen, you will not gain entry into the realms of the arts so easily."

But the "gentlemen" in Hamburg have not compared creative writers with penny-a-liners. In this respect, *Autorenreport* leaves little to be desired, as Dieter Lattmann, head of the Writers Association, has to admit.

Lattmann protested against the premature publication in *Spiegel* as it was prejudicial to his campaign for royalties to be paid to writers whose books were borrowed from public libraries. But a law to this effect has now been passed anyway.

Lattmann states that the book has been given a bit of publicity in order to spice it up but admits after a first reading that such comprehensive material is unique and can serve as the basis of deliberations on various aspects of cultural policy.

Lattmann also feels that the report confirms the Writers Association standpoint that there is a long-term trend towards giving writers employee status.

The report illustrates the dependence of so-called independent writers by means of a large number of statistics. But does solidarity result from joint dependence? Augstein doubts this in his foreword.

But is this confirmed by the findings of the inquiry that did not only ask about income and provisions for old age but also probed what writers thought about their role and their profession?

The answer is yes and no. As far as awareness is concerned, many writers have not yet caught up with the present stage of cultural industry and industrial culture and are therefore sitting in a large number of boats.

But on the other hand most writers are dependent on the culture industry to the same extent. It is only the amount of pay that varies.

The present state of affairs is paradoxical – and has serious consequences for authors. On the one hand there is society which requires more and more information and aid to communication. On the other hand there is the insecure and sometimes unworthy position of informers and communicators.

The discussion about the income of self-employed writers caused the greatest stir after its premature publication in *Spiegel*. The statistics did not back Writers Association claims that authors hardly earned as much as the poorest manual worker.

That was why people suspected the survey had only covered editorial staff with a high income or professors who also write on the side. Only by this method could such relatively good results be obtained, they claimed. But the book shows that this accusation is unjustified. As many as 680 of the 1,693 writers covered by the survey were self-employed.

The thirty to sixty-year-olds form the most interesting group. They are already established to a certain extent but do not yet belong to the old hands at the game.

This group earnt an average annual income of twenty thousand Marks in 1970. Expenses, taxes and sickness and pension insurance contributions, if paid, must be deducted from this figure.

About half this group are better off. Forty-five per cent had annual incomes of more than 24,000 Marks. But fourteen per cent had incomes of between only three and twelve thousand Marks. Seven per cent did not even earn three thousand Marks a year.

Spiegel's claim that hardship is not very great among writers does not apply therefore to 21 per cent of them. It certainly does not apply to creative writers. More than half the writers describing themselves as creative authors, 57 per cent in fact, earned less than three thousand Marks a year. Ten per cent on the other hand earn more than 24,000 Marks. Writers describing themselves simply as "writers" are better-situated. As many as 59 per cent of them earn more than twelve thousand Marks a year. But here too twenty per cent only earn less than three thousand Marks a year. The statistics look worse in this case as the youngest writers and those over sixty are also included. But is is not a very satisfactory state of affairs even bearing this mind. The situation is disastrous where old age insurance is concerned. About a quarter of self-employed writers have no pensions insurance.

The authors of the report propose a pension fund for writers employed in all media – radio, television, publishing and the press.

A joint kitty for all media is necessary because of the frequency with which writers switch from one branch to another. In 1970 each writer worked for an average of 2.8 media. There are few authors who only write books and do not work for radio and television or the press.

"Without us men of letters nothing exists in human society," Hermann Kesten, the new head of the West German PEN Centre, once wrote. *Autorenreport* claims that the opposite is true – more and more is happening in society without men of letters.

The poet's traditional claim to totality, his claim to be responsible for everything that occurs, may have survived in the minds of some writers but it has become more than dubious in our scientific age, the authors of the report comment.

Karla Fohrbeck and Andreas Wiesand supply statistics that give food for thought. As many as 62 per cent of all writers would like to help end social and political grievances but two fifths have no definite public in mind when they write. The three fifths who stated they wrote for a particular group were usually rather obscure when it came to giving details.

But the number of original geniuses among writers must be considerable. As many as 58 per cent of those describing themselves as poets or creative writers believe this – it is understandable why the report registers a considerable lack of information among writers and why Fohrbeck and Wiesand demand that conscience should not be stressed at the cost of science.

More science and perhaps a little less "national conscience" is more than a slogan. It is a necessary provocation.

Frank J. Heinemann

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 17 June 1972)



Kwan Yuen, the Buddhist Goddess of Mercy
(Photo: Museum für Ostasiatische Kunst Köln)

Cologne art Festival spotlights the city's art heritage

"Cologne Art Festival," read the slogan and the whole venture was not much more than a slogan either. It was nothing special and yet remarkable. It was nothing special as these three days declared the Cologne Art Festival was just a part of the everyday art scene in the city. What is remarkable is the amount of art that can be seen (or ignored) in everyday Cologne. Usually people take it for granted.

The Festival was the invention of clever Cologne art-dealers who found a gap in this year's art calendar. There was nothing between the Biennale and documenta, nothing between the West German Art Fair, Art '72 and Cologne Art Market.

And where there's a gap, there's a way they said to themselves. They reckoned that art-lovers and collectors would travel between Venice and Kassel or Kassel and Basle via Cologne. They invented the Cologne Art Festival that would take place on three summer days and quickly fitted it into the calendar of European exhibitions.

Nothing out of the ordinary happened. Twenty-four Cologne galleries each contributed five hundred Marks to a kitty, the city council added its good wishes and the special exhibitions currently running in its museums.

Basically, the galleries did nothing more than this either. The exhibition programme was already fixed and the events were concentrated into three days where possible.

The money raised was used to increase advertising. This had an effect. None of the score or so of important overseas buyers were caught sight of, it is true, but there were more visitors to the galleries than usual.

Anything that went beyond the normal, everyday range seemed improvised and was unconvincing. For example, a discussion on the possibilities of aesthetic education in our society ended in fiasco right at the start of the Festival.

Well-known writers from the art publishers organising the event failed to supply the impatient and disappointed

Continued on page 11

Acting proletariat

Filmmakers from all over the world have been invited to take part in the 21st International Film-Week in Mannheim between 9 and 14 October.

The festival is for film and television productions in 35 mm and 16 mm which have not been released commercially on the cinema circuits nor broadcast by television stations on a more than purely local basis.

The films must have been entered by 15 August and must arrive in Mannheim by 31 August. The Grand Prix will be solely for the first ever full-length feature film by filmmakers who have so far made only documentary films.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 22 June 1972)

CINEMA

Churches quit voluntary film censorship agency

For almost 23 years a small group of rather elderly gentlemen sat in a Baroque room with decorated stucco-work ceiling in Schloss Biebrich, Wiesbaden, and deliberated on what could be shown in West German cinemas and what not.

They formed the "Voluntary Self-Control Board" of the Federal Republic's film industry (FSK) and for a generation with the aid of the Federal states and the Church they were able to dictate the tastes and habits of the cinemagoing public, even though there was no legal basis for this work.

In the past there have been numerous controversies about the work of the FSK and the decisions it has taken. It was doubted whether its work was constitutional and at no time was a satisfactory answer to this problem ever given.

In 1958 lawyer Johanna Noltenius expressed the opinion that the FSK contravened Basic Law as an instrument of censorship. Her dissertation led to a flood of legalistic documents on this subject, many contradicting each other. No clear decision was reached in the end.

But now the FSK has come to its own decision after pressure was applied by the film distributors, whose spokesman Horst von Hartlieb developed a new statute for the FSK last year. This allowed for the film watchdogs in Wiesbaden to remain in business with the continued support of the State and the Churches. But its work would be restricted to the ability to make cuts in the name of protection of minors and to make the decision whether films could be shown on religious holidays.

In future the FSK will not have any say in whether films are suitable for an over-18 audience only. This decision will be taken by representatives of the cinema industry who have no direct business interests in the films in question.

Furthermore the leading organisations of the film industry have set up their own body of lawyers so that producers can test their films against the provisions of law and see for themselves where they are overstepping the mark.

This reform of the FSK is a development that has come as a result of more and more dubious decisions over a period of time. The FSK was formed in 1949 to follow on from the Allies censorship schemes. In those days the dangers of a State-controlled censorship body were sounded loud and clear. Arguments along these lines soon became farcical with the implementation of Basic Law (Article 5: There shall be no censorship).

And so another basis for the FSK's activities had to be found. As far as protection of minors and opening of cinemas on public holidays was concerned the basis was already there and this still has relevance today.

But as the diminishing influence of the Church on the moral awareness of the public became more and more obvious and the influence of people in the film industry on the FSK increased the would-be censors of Wiesbaden took on a kind of twilight existence.

Representatives of the State and Church at the Wiesbaden headquarters found themselves in a difficult position in which they were little more than a fig-leaf for the film industry.

The two Churches had the most difficult position in this setup. For years they had been moaning about the slack attitude of the FSK towards the flood of films from such as Oswalt Kolle and Alois Brummer. Last autumn they decided they had had enough and packed it in. They no longer were involved in the decision whether films were to be released.

But they did not quit completely, keeping a foot in the door as it were by retaining their right to decide on whether films were suitable for children and for showing on holidays.

They used similar tactics back in 1951 when they quit the FSK under protest at the decision to release the Hildegard Neff film *Die Sünderin*, returning later after the censors had altered the regulations regarding the right of appeal and making the board more equally balanced.

But the biggest arguments have always come from the FSK's handling of films that were political or religious dynamite. Films that took the mickey out of the Catholic Church such as Manfred Adloff's short *Die Wechsler im Tempel* (The moneylenders in the temple) and the satire *Erzengel Gabriel und Frau Gans* (The Angel Gabriel and Mother Goose) by Czech Jiri Trnka were not released at first

Among the top names to be subjected to the Wiesbaden blue pencil and scissors is Luis Buñuel most of whose films have fallen foul of them, which confirms the suspicion that the FSK acts "not without regard for the political leanings of a filmmaker".

What other explanation can there be when agitation films such as Jacopetti's *Africa Addio* and John Wayne's *The Green Berets* pass without a cut along with the Ufa epic *Der Choral von Leuthen*?

Wolf Scheller

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 21 June 1972)

Cologne cinema festival links film and other art forms

Since birth more than seventy years ago the medium of film in Germany has been fighting for recognition as an art form. This seventh son of the Muses, whether art form or means of entertainment pure and simple, has certainly been exercising an ever-increasing influence on other media.

Even Sergei Eisenstein in his investigations into montage ascertained that Alfred Döblin, James Joyce and John Dos Passos used techniques and structures of the film in their novels. Today more and more men of letters are becoming men of film – Brandner, Bienek and Handke among them.

Meyerhold, Piscator and Brecht as well as Zadek more recently have used film for the theatre. And then there is Dieter Wellershoff's multi-media opera *Hysteria*.

The originators of Pop-Art were also fascinated by the film: David Hamilton painted pictures taken from stills of a Bing Crosby film, Superstar Andy Warhol did a famous series on Marilyn Monroe and like many other artists today he has also become famous as a filmmaker.

Happenings, Flux, Ars intermedia, Concept Art and Multi-Media have proved that the boundaries between one art form and the next are being eroded away. There are common interests and common connections between artists today. Theme has given way to technique, do-ability, a structure with interconnections.

This insight into what can be done, the rules of the game and freedom from the old idea of Thème give free rein to pleasurable play. And this applies to artists as well as art appreciators. Tinguely's machines and flippers in a bar are fun in a carefully planned environment.

And the delights of the commonplace have been re-discovered in kitsch and trivial myths, in comics and cheap books. In America this new way of looking at things is known as "Camp". It is the correct mixture of exaggeration, fantasy, passion and naivety. The same forms of mechanical repetition seen in a visual and formal way in Fernand Leger's *Le Ballet Mécanique* are also to be found in the naive narrative style of *Batman*. The question of whether it is art or not takes a back seat.

This is also the reason why early films of Luis Buñuel, Jean Vigo and the Marx Brothers are today as fascinating as the films of George Melies, Batman films or Tod Browning's *Freaks*, a grotesque over-done melodrama which spends sixty minutes in the world of circus freaks with wit, irony and a great deal of profundity.

These artistic connections could be seen at this year's Cologne Cinema Festival in the Wallraf-Richartz Museum.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 17 June 1972)

Fischinger's pioneer work for the 'art' cinema rediscovered

This rediscovery was well worth while. Amerika Haus gave us a glimpse of the work of Oskar Fischinger and on another evening the work of his successors, those young filmmakers who are today at work on the West Coast of America basing their cinematic experiments on Fischinger's ideas.

It must be admitted that the glance back to the past was far more interesting than the modern work. For Fischinger, born 1900 in Gelnhausen, emigrated in the Nazi era to America where he died, is not only the father of the modern advertising film and TV spot, but also his experimental filming is staggeringly connected via elective affinities to the attempts to make the medium of film more sensitive at present being undertaken by young filmmakers. But the moderns do not come anywhere near Fischinger's artistic standards and achievements, considering the comparatively primitive technical state of the film world when Fischinger flourished.

Fischinger's efforts to give the then new medium as many new and diverse visual facets as possible probably are the reason why he is now being rediscovered amid such enthusiasm in the United Stated, as Elfriede Fischinger, his widow, who is accompanying the films on their conquest of Europe, explained.

But Fischinger's attempts to test the medium of film, experimenting with its optical potential, were different from today's experimenting and were tied up with technical pioneering achievements. Fischinger, who had studied engineering, invented a film splicing device in 1920 that could be coupled to a camera and used in conjunction with a black, white and grey cube of wax and used in trick photography to create a psychedelic black and white pattern. Technical experiments were conducted alongside these purely optical trials.

He experimented with colour emulsions and before these were perfected in conjunction with Beela Gaspar he coloured his own film compositions by hand. In 1933 his miniature production *Kreise* was the first coloured advertising film in Europe.

Like the use of colour the application of the animation technique in his famous advertising film *Muratti greift ein* was a sensation, being something quite new at that time. His marching, dancing cigarettes marched and danced over the silver screen for more than a year. It was with such advertising films that Fischinger made a living and financed his cinematic experiments.

But his main concern was to find a cinematic equivalent to Abstract Art which was already on its triumphal march at this time. In this, music seemed to offer the ideal partnership. His widow says that even before talkies were invented he attempted to synchronise sound and film with minute markings in tenths of a second on gramophone records.

One of these early attempts at making a soundtrack gave him financial difficulties because he had overlooked a performing rights stipulation. Nonetheless no one else managed to combine music and film so well as he. The influence of Constructivism in his film ballets of music and colour is unmistakable.

At times, such as in *Radio Dynamics* which he made in 1942 as part of Orson Welles' project of making a film biography of Louis Armstrong, his work is reminiscent of a moving Constructivist picture.

So it was not by mere chance that Moholy-Nagy illustrated his lectures with Fischinger films.

The most consistent melding of painting and cinema was Fischinger's "filming" of Bach's *Brandenburg Concerto No 3*. This continuous oil painting makes a perfect synthesis of music and visual art.

But in 1939 when Walt Disney had something similar in mind with his *Fantasia* this man, who was several leagues higher, was given the push since his music was not suited for the nice animal world of the Disney workshops.

Daghild Knop

(Der Tagesspiegel, 17 June 1972)

Continued from page 10

audience with any answers. They glibly spoke around the subject and none of the audience can still be curious about their books on this topic.

But the three days did do some good. With some of the pomp and spectacle common along the Rhine they drew attention to the richness and variety of the everyday art scene in Cologne.

In what other city could galleries stage an almost complete Rauschenberg exhibition? Or an exhibition on the senselessness of war with examples stretching from the Ancient world to Kienholz?

At the same time visitors to Cologne could also see the "Rhine and Meuse", "Buddhist Sculpture" and "Archaic Bronzes and Early Ceramics from China" exhibitions, to mention only a few of the possibilities.

The galleries on the other hand naturally concentrated more on modern works and provided an interesting survey of international developments in the last twenty years with particular attention being paid to Constructivism, New Realism, Minimal and Concept Art.

A large number of new discoveries were exhibited alongside well-known international artists. Happily, foreign cultural institutes also took part in the Festival with their own exhibitions.

Sceptical observers claim that Cologne's gallery-owners organised this Festival in order to give a spectacular chance to their artists who had not attended documenta in Kassel.

That may be true but, whatever the reason was, the slogan opened up such a range that it will probably only take another magic formula of this type to reveal to the astonished populace of other cities what a lot of art there is to see.

Eo Plunien

(Die Welt, 20 June 1972)

■ EDUCATION

Munich University celebrates 500th anniversary

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Munich University, the largest in the German-speaking world, will be celebrating its five-hundredth anniversary at the end of the month with a whole week of special events.

The Ludwig Maximilian University, the first in Bavaria, was originally opened in near-by Ingolstadt on 26 June 1472 by its founder, Ludwig the Rich, with the blessing of Pope Pius II. At that time 794 students attended the university.

Today some 27,000 young people from all over the world study at Munich University. When the College of Education, the fifteenth faculty, is incorporated into the university on 1 August the total will rise to almost thirty thousand.

The maximum limit set by the Arts and Science Council and the Bavarian Education Ministry will thus have been surpassed for the first time. Entry restrictions are being threatened for all subjects.

Serious disturbances are also threatened once again as a result of Bavarian Education Minister Hans Maier's plans for a new law giving the State almost unlimited influence on university affairs.

The General Students Committee (AStA), composed solely of representatives of "Red Cell" groups and supported by other left-wing groupings, has already summoned up enough energy to rise—from its deathbed and call for a boycott of the anniversary celebrations.

"The present situation at this universary gives no cause for celebration," AStA press spokesman Michael Horn stated. "Celebrations are too much concerned with the past anyway and only revive old traditions."

But this university has more tradition than any other place of learning in Germany. For centuries the University of Ingolstadt, with its outstanding Jesuit priests, stood at the forefront of the Counter-Reformation. Initially, Johann Eck disputed here with Luther. Later, the Lutherans in Ingolstadt were tried by the Church.

Milestones of science were also set up here. Christoph Scheiner, a Jesuit, discovered the sun-spots in 1611. The first dissection of a human corpse took place in Ingolstadt in 1641. In 1735 the faculty of medicine received its own "anatomical theatre".

Student unrest also came early to Ingolstadt. "No year passes without the military and students becoming involved in affrays that often end in bloodshed, wounds and death," Johann Pezzl reported.

That was the main reason why the university was transferred to Landshut in 1800. "The public is somewhat better there, not just cobblers and tailors," Pezzl commented.

But 26 years later King Maximilian II transferred the stronghold of Bavarian intellectualism to his seat in Munich, a city that was flourishing at this time.

Student unrest began once again. Christmas 1830 was particularly violent. The State reacted as it often did again in the future — it imposed restrictions on the freedom of students and increased police supervision.

In 1848 students and professors took part in the revolt against King Ludwig I — his relationship with the Spanish dancer Lola Montez was the main issue — and in the clearly political revolution that subsequently followed.

Such outbursts were repeated in 1919 after unrest had already broken out in 1850 because of preference shown for North German professors and in 1870 as a result of the First Vatican Council.

There was almost a revolution against Fascism in 1942. It began with the secret distribution of pamphlets and ended with the execution of Hans and Sophie Scholl, their fellow-student Wilhelm Graf and their professor, Kurt Huber.

Finally, on 18 May 1972 twenty thousand students took part in a disciplined march through Munich to protest against Hans Maier's plans for a university law. This was one of the biggest demonstrations ever to have been seen in the city.

Although the university also reflects Bavaria's troubled history, it has always remained a centre of European intellectual life. World-famous scholars bear witness to this claim.

They include philosophers Friedrich Wilhelm Joseph von Schelling, Franz Xaver Baader and Joseph von Görres, scientists Max von Pettenkofer, Justus von Liebig, Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen, Adolf von Baeyer, Arnold Sommerfeld, Richard Willstätter and Heinrich Wieland, economist Adolf Weber, musician Wilhelm Furtwängler, drama professor Kutscher and the great theologian Romano Guardini.

Today three Nobel Prizewinners still teach at Munich University — Adolf Butenandt, Fedor Lynen and Werner Heisenberg who will speak on the role of science in the modern university on 27 June as part of the celebrations.

Ceremonies will take place in Ingolstadt and Landshut as well as in Munich. They will be attended by Bavarian Prime Minister Alfons Goppel, Cardinal Julius Döpfner and a large number of scientists from both home and abroad.

The more large-scale campaigns announced by students to counter what they call the reaction that has recently formed at the university will not take place during these celebrations.

Munich University has long been bursting at the seams. Today it employs a staff of nine thousand, along with 960 fully-qualified teaching staff and some 580 other instructors. It is therefore the sixth largest employer in Munich.

It has already expanded well into the area of the city called the Maxvorstadt and outraged inhabitants have organised campaigns calling for an end to the university's growth.

Further expansion is only planned outside the city. The medical faculty is to be set up in Grosshadern where the most modern hospital town in Europe is now being built.

A number of science departments are being transferred to Garching where a gigantic "Uniapolis", a town of the sciences for at least sixty thousand students and researchers is being built.

Karl Stankiewitz
(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 20 June 1972)



Munich University (Photo: Metz Köln)

Düsseldorf University fights over the 175th anniversary of Heine's birth

Heinrich Heine would have enjoyed hearing Hermann Kesten's skilful speech at a recent public debate in Düsseldorf during which he pressed the authorities to name the city's university after the famous nineteenth-century poet.

On 6 March Düsseldorf University's Statutes Committee decided by 38 votes to 19 with seven abstentions against naming the university after any figure from the past.

But this is not the secular scandal that Kesten claims. Nor is it the result of the unparalleled obstinacy of Heine opponents, as Hans Kühner-Wolfskehl claimed in a letter to North Rhine-Westphalia's Prime Minister, Heinz Kühn.

It is the result of a vote which one side lost, as usually happens in democratic votes.

Düsseldorf and Heinrich Heine never got on well together after the poet's death. But while still alive, Heine wrote his *Buch Le Grand* in which he presented his birthplace with far more friendly a monument than he was to do later for Hamburg, his second home.

German nationalist professors thwarted plans to erect a memorial to Heinrich Heine in Düsseldorf after his death. The Nazis also tried to obliterate his memory.

But people have tried to make up for this since 1945. A memorial now stands in his honour. A broad avenue bears his name. A Heine Prize has replaced the Immermann Prize. A plaque has been placed on his birthplace, though it is almost certain that Heine was not born in this house.

In an effort to make up for the failings of the past, anniversary-hunters have with an eagerness that prompts a little scepticism, hit upon one of the oddest anniversaries ever to have been celebrated — the 175th anniversary of Heine's birth. The Post Office is even issuing a set of stamps.

This attitude adopted towards Heine between 1933 and 1945 may of course have led to medics and others at Düsseldorf University being too little accustomed to the poet and his work. His scornful poems only make up a small part of his total work. That is probably why they claim that one of the many German poets is to be immortalised at the cost of their university's scientific reputation.

People in Düsseldorf and elsewhere know far from enough about the Heinrich Heine who was the most fascinating and most interesting figure in nineteenth-century intellectual history in Germany in the era between Goethe and Karl Marx. He formed a bridge between the two that collapsed in flames.

Admittedly, Heine had little to do with Düsseldorf University. But then, Goethe

DIE ZEIT

did not have much to do with the Goethe University in Frankfurt either, nor Karl Marx with the Marx University in Leipzig.

It would be completely misguided to force the Düsseldorf authorities to call their university the Heine University after the dead poet. If they are to take this step they must do it for the good of those inhabitants of Düsseldorf who are still alive. Outside of coal and steel circles Heine is far more famous throughout the world than Düsseldorf.

A university should count itself lucky to be in a position to call itself after Heine. What have the medics, of all people, against this? Heinrich Heine, it is true, was not a doctor like brother Maximilian. But he was something far more important for the world of medicine — an astonishingly interesting, persistent, brave, financially reliable patient.

All this would merit further consideration by the vice-chancellor and senate. I cannot understand why the Social Democratic majority on Düsseldorf city council are putting the screws on the university. There are other possibilities. Anyone driving from Berlin to Leipzig will cross the Elbe and discover in the not particularly religious German Democratic Republic a sign stating that travellers are entering the Luther town of Wittenberg.

Rudolf Walter Leonhardt
(Die Zeit, 16 June 1972)

Hamburg limits student intake

Hamburg's Senate has imposed a restriction on the number of students who wish to study at the city's university this winter term. The restrictions apply to all subjects.

Reinhard Philipp, the Senator for Arts and Science stated in a letter to university president Fischer-Appelt that the restrictions had been imposed to counter overcrowding at the university and guarantee orderly studying conditions.

In view of the staff and rooms available the total number of students should not exceed 25,800. A Senate spokesman told the press that this figure had already been reached. Between 26,000 and 27,000 students are expected at Hamburg University this winter term.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 16 June 1972)

■ MEDICINE

Acne – a minor complaint with serious mental implications

Acne, a disease involving the formation of spots and pimples on the face, neck and back, particularly in those areas where sebaceous glands are most common, was the central topic discussed by dermatologists at the Westerland Seminar for Advanced Medicine. The disease is relatively common and causes worry to both doctors and patients.

Dr H. J. Engels of Düsseldorf University Dermatological Hospital dealt at length with the diagnostic, aetiological and therapeutic opportunities that a doctor has at his disposal when fighting the disease.

Acne is not a dangerous disease but it can be a serious psychological problem for sufferers, especially females. Mental disorders can result when a doctor dismisses the complaint as a trifle or when home cures fail.

A number of cases are caused by poisonous substances a person comes into contact with at work. Industrial oils can gradually erode away the skin and cause acne. This can result from dirty hands, arms or working overalls.

The second most important type of acne resulting from a person's work is that prompted by chlorine. It can lead to serious skin complaints among chemical workers.

Liver damage is often the consequence. It has been known for some time that it is not pure phenol chloride that causes skin disease but the side-products needed for herbicides and insecticides. This particularly affects farmers or foresters who come into contact with these substances.

Consuming food that has been treated with chlorides can also prompt this type of acne. Engels had an impressive example of this. In 1968 more than one thousand persons in Japan suffered skin disease all over their body and serious organic disorders after eating rice that had probably been treated with chlorides.

Steroid acne is a special form. It can be observed more and more often as hormones produced by the suprarenal cortex are used in practice. Doctors must always ensure exact dosage in such cases.

What are the causes of these skin diseases? Engels put forward two factors:

Hereditary disposition. Statistical research on twins has confirmed this assumption.

Hormone research shows that disorders of the hormone balance are the second main factor after the genetic. Doctors have a good deal of evidence showing that it is linked with the sex hormones.

Acne is extremely rare before a child reaches puberty. Old men do not suffer from it either. It must therefore be linked with age in some way. Experiments have shown that androgen, oestrogen and gestagen affect the functioning of the sebaceous glands.

Beginning treatment can only be useful when the patient no longer comes into contact with substances such as oil, tar and chlorine. Patients must be told that success depends on their cooperation.

The links between acne and food consumption should also be examined. But it is impossible to draw up a diet that applies in every case. Excess weight should be taken off and sleeping pills avoided. Treating women with oestrogen has become more and more common in recent years. But according to Engels' observations this hormone should only be taken for about three months. Males of course cannot be treated in this way. Oral vitamin A treatment was often used in the past but this has now been replaced by the vitamin A acid therapy which results in no observable side-effects. Where external treatment is concerned, Engels recommends the application of vitamin A acid solutions, creams and ointments on the affected areas. If irritation is too great treatment must be interrupted. An important factor when treating acne is to avoid the formation of scars. Engels warns in particular against using medicaments containing a number of different substances. Cleanliness is an important part of external treatment. The skin must be cleaned with so-called acne alcohol before the sebaceous cysts are opened. Treatment should take place twice a week in serious cases. Once a week should be sufficient for less serious cases. But Engels warns against patients treating themselves.

Leo Nitschmann
(Die Welt, 20 June 1972)

Siemens' Videomat

New electronic equipment consisting of an automatic picture analyser and television screen is now on the market. Pictures are registered for analysis in the usual way. The electronic signals obtained as the picture is covered line by line, are automatically analysed by the new equipment — the videomat. The equipment can be set to register a variety of factors. It will be particularly useful in biology, medicine and metallurgy. (Photo: Siemens)

■ OUR WORLD

A parapsychologist extraordinary – Professor Hans Bender

If you are at a conference illustrated by film and the light goes out and the curtains are automatically drawn across the screen you would not normally be too worried. But things were different at an usually well attended lecture in Cologne University. Audience members felt a cold shudder run down their spines when invisible forces went to work and there was a rattling at the windows. They were suddenly startled out of an unreal world of poltergeists and demons, spooks and ghouls into which their imaginations had been led by one of West Germany's most famous parapsychologists, Professor Hans Bender.

The announcement that the theme would deal with telepathy, clairvoyance and spooks caused sympathetic smiles among the audience. According to a recent survey in the Federal Republic seventy per cent of people consider spooks to be mere superstition, a swindle and a fraud.

Parapsychologists are used to being laughed at and not being taken seriously. In Europe there are only three university chairs devoted to the study of the psychology of the supernatural, in Leningrad, Utrecht and Freiburg, where Professor Hans Bender heads the department of parapsychology.

Whenever things don't go as they should, whenever massive cupboards begin to wander about, when pictures swing without reason on the wall, light bulbs explode, drawers jump out of cupboards and tea cups fly around Professor Bender and his assistants are called in with their instruments to placate and reason with the poltergeist. The professor also deals with dreams, telepathy and the phenomenon of clairvoyance. In short he tries to rationalise the irrational.

After his lecture in Cologne he was besieged with people who said things like: "Indeed, Professor, I also have similar strange dreams" – this from an elderly lady. The professor handed her his visiting card and asked her to write to him; perhaps an experiment would be worthwhile.

Professor Bender, a doctor of medicine and philosophy, is dependent to a large extent in his research on information he receives from the public at large. His collection of "psychic phenomena" drawn from all levels of society includes thousands and thousands of cases, half of them involving dreams, premonitions visions and apparitions.

Only half of these reports can be taken seriously. Often the poltergeist, as in a recent case in Bremen, turns out to be a hoax concocted by neighbours or children. Sometimes the ghosts appear as mad, hysterical humans. Really interesting cases that command years of study only crop up about twice a year.

Of the thousands of cases that Professor Bender has on his files in Freiburg 92 per cent are closed marked "no case of death, illness or accident".

Few cases come up, according to the Professor, that the researchers are able to write up in note form or which are confirmed by witnesses. For the past twenty years Professor Bender has been experimenting with the telepathic dreams a Hamburg actress has been having. She has had 2,300 and the Freiburg institute has investigated only twelve of them.

It has been proved that the actress sees in her dreams events that occur in fact at least a year later. She described a scene from a Klamauk film starring Heinz Erhardt that did not go before the camera until four years later. Apart from collecting phenomena, the researchers have conducted experiments under laboratory conditions with schoolchildren, housewives and students using the so-called 'Zener cards' devised by the American parapsychologist, Rhine. In this method the test person must guess, or have an intimation of which cards a researcher or one of his assistants in a distant room has taken out of the pack.


Professor Hans Bender (Photo: Helmut Jülliger)

If the test person is only right five per cent of the time this is considered to be accidental. If the person is correct in more than five per cent of the tests then parapsychologists consider that some supernatural agency has been operating. After the demonstration Professor Bender was asked where such cards could be obtained, obviously showing that some members of his Cologne audience were out to test their own telepathic abilities in the privacy of their own homes.

A third area of investigations involves mediums, people who are able to make contact with the spirits and who have the power of clairvoyance, who are able to exert physical influences on space and who have the gift of extra-sensory perception.

The case of Annemarie who worked in a Rosenheim lawyer's office is a case of a person have contact with 'spooks'.

Making bulbs fall out of the lights, causing cupboards to move from against a wall and such goings on are not only the result of feminine powers. Young males, passing through the disturbances of puberty are also capable of summoning up supernatural kinetic forces. "Annemarie," says Professor Bender, "has now found tranquillity again. She is married and has a baby and now things do not go bump in the night when she is around."

On a physical plane, the Professor says, such energy is incomprehensible. It would be desirable to incorporate it into the science of physics, but at the moment this is not feasible. This is not the fault of the scientist but just has to be put down to lack of evidence. The once highly controversial science of parapsychology is now becoming more widely accepted as valid.

Professor Bender said: "Dissenting voices are becoming few and far between. There is another dimension outside time and space where the puzzling potentials of the psyche can take effect. More and more physicists are becoming aware of this."

Annelie Stankau

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 15 June 1972)

Good time girls

Every fourth married woman in the Federal Republic is of the view that she has a better time of it than her husband, according to a survey carried out by the Wickert Institute, Tübingen.

The survey covered 1,000 married men and women.

Seven per cent of the women questioned said that they believed that they had a far more comfortable life than did their husbands. Ten per cent maintained that they had a worse time of it.

Sixty three per cent replied that they considered that they had it no better or no worse than their marriage partner.

Of the married men questioned only every fifteenth was of the view that he had a better time than his wife. Fifteen per cent said they had a worse time. Sixty five per cent said they could not detect any difference between their lives and the way of life of their wives.

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 7 June 1972)

Dodo, the Chimp

The tragi-comedy in which Dodo, a three-year-old chimpanzee played the main role, has come to an end. A Frankfurt court has fined Margret Frank, 33, five hundred Marks for unlawful detention and causing bodily harm.

Originally the young woman was charged with theft, because she had taken Dodo by force from the home of a carpet dealer. It seems Margret Frank and the carpet dealer's wife came to blows in the bedroom and Dodo was so frightened he fled.

Dodo had been bequeathed to Margret by her boyfriend, ex-American GI Donald Jackson. He was shot after an argument in nightclub-land near to Frankfurt railway station. Because Margret was in need of money she sold the chimpanzee to the carpet dealer's wife for 1,000 Marks, 2,000 Marks to be paid in instalments.

As the instalments were not paid and Margret had a dream in which Donald appeared to her and reproached her that she had sold Dodo, she hurried over to the carpet dealer's home.

The carpet dealer's wife refused to surrender the chimpanzee and a mighty battle ensued. Margret was the stronger and she made off with Dodo which she later presented to Karlsruhe Zoo.

The carpet dealer took the matter to court and Margret was fined the 500 Marks. But Margret was not too put out by this because she has earned a goodly sum from illustrated magazines telling her story.

Albert Bechtold

(Kieler Nachrichten, 3 June 1972)

Castle hotels

Seven more West German castles have joined the organisation "Guests in the Castle", putting the total of castles that are being used as hotels to 47.

The seven are Hardenberg Castle, not far from Göttingen, Schwalenberg Castle, Sababurg, the "Sleeping Beauty Castle" in Reinhardswald, Hotel Kaiserworth in Goslar, Schloss Stetten in the Kocher valley near Künkelsau, Hotel Ritter in Neckargemünd and Burg Rabenstein in Franconia.

The organisation has this year introduced reduced charges for visitors who take advantage of a tour to the various castle hotels lasting from three days to two weeks, during which seven previous seats of the nobility will be visited.

Cruises along the Weser which start in Hamelin also include overnight stays in castle hotels.

(Frankfurt Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 14 June 1972)

Beards are in

A bearded man is, as is well known, no longer an unusual sight in the Federal Republic, and, according to a survey conducted by the Allensbach Institute for Market Research, every fifth man now sports a beard.

Almost eleven per cent of all men in this country have a moustache on the upper lip, two per cent have a Van Dyke growth, three per cent have a short full beard and one per cent have a long luxuriant growth.

Young men between 16 and 29 make up the largest group of bearded men. Only 68 per cent of this group are clean shaven. In the age group 30 to 44, on the other hand, the figure is 85 per cent and in the next age group, 45 to 59, it was ... per cent.

Beards again come back in the over sixties age group. The figure for those who are clean shaven falls back to 85 per cent.

It is a matter of note that the greater the standard of education the more favoured was a beard. The survey showed that 84 per cent of young men who had just had an ordinary education were beardless. Every fourth of those with higher educational qualifications favoured a beard.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 23 June 1972)

No smoking

Max Halhuber, a Munich ... physician, has demanded that restaurants, just as railway carriages should have sections reserved for non-smokers.

Dr Halhuber of Höhenried clinic, said: "We have now come to that point in time when the non-smoker should be protected."

At an ADAC press conference, the West German motoring club, Dr Halhuber gave urgent warnings of the dangers of smoking. He pointed out that scientific research had revealed that 95 per cent of those below the age of 40 who died from a heart attack had been heavy smokers.

He pointed out that on average those who smoked between thirty and forty cigarettes a day must expect to have their first heart attack by the age of 53. On the other hand those who only smoked ... cigarettes a day did not have a heart attack until they were 67.

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 9 June 1972)

Back seat for kids

Legislation must be introduced to ban children from the front seats of cars, the Federal Republic Housewives Association demands. A similar ban has been in force in Austria since the beginning of this year. This view is shared by the Federation of Motor Vehicle Insurers.

(Kieler Nachrichten, 5 June 1972)

■ SPORT

Hamburg's Derby – 150 years of flat racing



Hamburg's Derby Week this year sported the slogan 150 years of German horse-racing. The first race ever held on a permanent course took place at Bad Doberan, Mecklenburg, on 22 August 1822 and marked the beginnings of horse-racing in this country as we know it today.

The sesquicentenary was officially celebrated in Hamburg and the Thoroughbred Racing Board published a commemorative volume entitled *Freizeit für Kumpel und Könige* (Leisure for Coalminers and Kings) as a souvenir of what is claimed to be the oldest sport in Germany.

Horse-races have been held at various places with some regularity since the fifteenth century but were generally regarded as a popular amusement. Organised racing as known today did not begin to emerge in Europe until after the Napoleonic wars.

Thoroughbred breeding began in Britain in the mid-seventeenth century, Arab mares and stallions being imported and a continual process of selection carried out in the course of the racing season.

Racing was supervised by the Jockey Club, established in 1750, and the first classic race for three-year-olds that is still held, the St Leger, was first run in 1776. Three years later came the Oaks, the Derby for mares, and in 1780 the Derby itself. It is no coincidence that the first permanent racetrack in Germany was established in Mecklenburg (Bad Doberan course came under the plough after the Second World War). This was the home of the country's first thoroughbred studs, Graf Plessivenack's, set up in 1816, and Baron von Biel's, set up in 1818.

In the twenties and thirties last century a further thirteen racetracks were established, ranging from Aachen in the West to Königsberg in the East.

Hamburg, 1835, and Düsseldorf, 1836, are the only two of these original tracks still in existence but at that time the number of clubs, tracks and horses in this country was larger than in either France or Italy.

The supreme racing body in this country still talks of horse-racing being the oldest sport in Germany. This, then, is true to the extent that the organisation is of longer standing than of any athletic discipline.

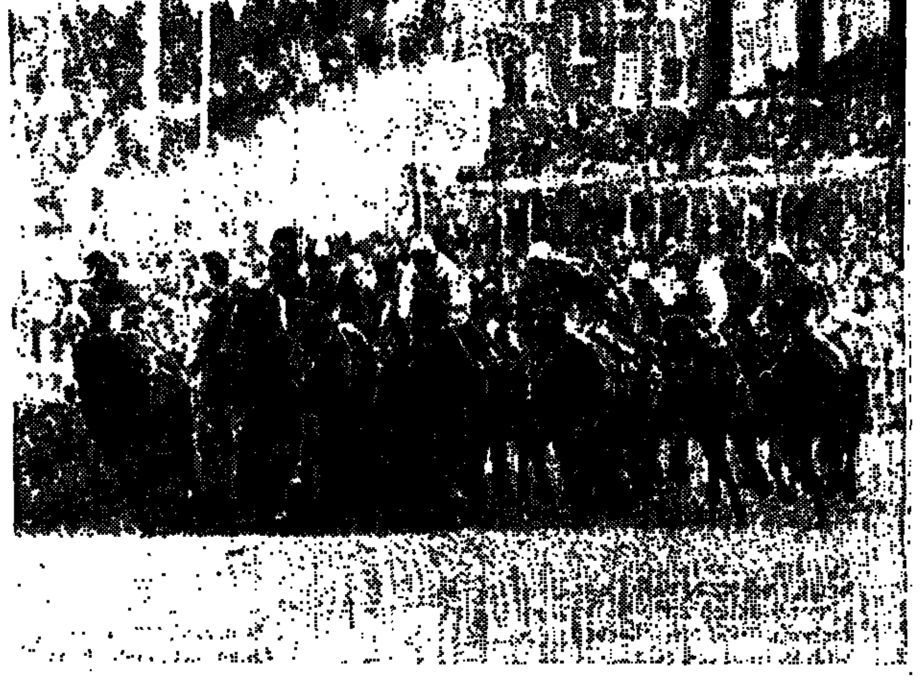
As recently as the early years of this century the word sport was automatically associated with horse-racing and with the turf only.

Hamburg was also a pioneer of horse- was considered receptive for modern ideas in the world of sport. It boasts not only the oldest German gymnastics club, the Hamburger Turnerschaft von 1816, but also the oldest German rowing club, Hamburger und Germania Ruder Club von 1836.

Hamburg was also a pioneer of horse-racing. The first races were held in Jüthorn (1835) and Lokstedt (1852), followed in 1855 by Horn, where the German Derby has been held almost without interruption since 1869.

It is thus hardly surprising that the Thoroughbred Racing Board decided to hold the sesquicentenary celebrations in Hamburg.

France may long since have outstripped this country in both the number of racehorses and the amounts awarded in prize money but trends in recent years in the Federal Republic fully warrant the title of the commemorative volume.


Geoff Lewis, riding Tarim, won the 103rd Hamburg Derby. 40,000 specatators watched a record course of 22 mounts. (Photos: Nordbild)

Both world wars brought setbacks that have only gradually been counteracted. A futher reason why standards have declined was the loss, after the war, of Hoppegarten training centre, now in the GDR, for which no adequate substitute has been found in this country.

Federal Republic racehorses have, however, regained something of the erstwhile international reputation of their German forebears. The credit is largely due to the enthusiasm of breeders, who have continually increased the numbers of mares in stud.

Racetracks in this country, on the other hand, have a great deal of ground to make good. The stands are age-old and standards of comfort leave much to be desired. Prize money is also unspectacular. In both cases what is needed is financial backing.

This is not yet forthcoming. Horse-racing continues to be dependent on donations and subsidies. The five-horse special that is proving such a success in North Rhine-Westphalia may well be extended to other parts of the country and with any luck the Tote will bring in a fair amount of more badly needed money.

This bet, which can be placed off the track, is designed to appeal to people not currently interested in form. The powers that be expect great things of its introduction all over the country.

The main prize is won by the tipster who names in the right order the first five horses home out of eighteen. The 1972 German Derby, won on 24 June by the Rösler stud's *Lauscher* with Dave Richardson in the saddle, was accordingly staged for the first time as a five-horse special as an additional boost to nationwide betting.

Wilhelm Kauke

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 24 June 1972)

Vignette of two runners – Karl Honz and Manfred Letzerich

"I reckon I am now home and dry," Karl Honz of VfB Stuttgart commented after switching from the sprint to the 400 metres last winter. His forecast has come true sooner than even he could have expected.

The Amateur Athletics Association nominated Honz rather than any of the established quarter-milers such as Köhler, Jordan, Schlöske or Jellinghaus as a definite Olympic participant.

Two fast and furious 45.7 seconds over his new distance within three weeks and the pluck he showed in taking a risk have been laudably rewarded by sporting officials.

On 23 June in Augsburg Honz the 400-metre greenhorn, a white-collar worker with an underwear firm who hails from Bankholzen, population 500, on the shores of Lake Constance, was matched against the admittedly unspectacular Soviet specialists.

He got off to a fast and furious start, seemingly casting all established ideas about timing to the wind. His time at the 200-metre mark was 20.9, at the 300-metre mark 31.9 seconds – times no European before him had ever dared dream of.

"I am a sprinter and have yet to learn how to apportion my energy over the distance," he apologised. Honz, ex-champion Jürgen Kalfelder noted, is a strong as an ox.

A quiet dark-haired southerner, Honz decided the time had come to switch distances when, in the 4 x 400 metres relay event for this club's juniors a year ago, he ran his leg in a time of 45.9 seconds.

What he still lacks is a fair-sized helping of stamina "for the last fifty metres not to be such hard work," as he puts it. By next season he ought to be right at the top but for the time being he is happy to think in terms of the relay.

Manfred Letzerich

Honz, who is untroubled by injuries ("The doctors say I have particularly tough connective tissue"), is clear in his own mind that "The relay has priority."

His ideas on the subject are logical enough, too. The first four men in the finals of the 400 metres championships ought, he feels, to be nominated for the relay team. They alone stand a chance of winning medals. Were any of them to enter for the individual 400 metres event the relay team's prospects of Olympic honours would be accordingly reduced.

In the 10,000 metres at the Helsinki European championships in August 1971 Manfred Letzerich came in ninth in a time of 28 minutes 21 seconds, setting up a national record. In the June 1972 international against the Soviet Union in Augsburg he came in fourth in 28 minutes 14 seconds, a new national record.

Manfred Letzerich has never been a winner in the sense that Harald Norpoth or Bodo Tümmler can be said to have gone all out to win.

He is the matey type who sacrifices his own chances to enable others to achieve success and set up records. A lanky Wiesbadener, he seems to have been more interested in setting the pace and trying out fresh tactics.

Letzerich has never hidden his light under a bushel and has seldom been an also-ran but he has often been beaten, particularly in major international events.

It would be wrong to classify him as a second-rate athlete on this account. "Top-flight sport is fine," he explains, "but it does not mean everything to me. I have always preferred to have time to do other things too."

Despite long-distance running Manfred Letzerich, who is now 29, passed both school certificates at night school and now teaches biology, gymnastics and woodwork. "I enjoy my work, too, believe you me," he says.

Setbacks that are nothing unusual in this day and age, with sport medicine still not up to scratch in this country, have not disheartened a record-holder who has yet to win a major international event.

In December 971 he underwent an Achilles tendon operation. Hardly had he started running again this spring than he was troubled by a back injury.

His doctor treated the sciatica nerve and it was not until he was thinking in terms of covering his chosen distance in 28 minutes flat that another doctor discovered the real cause of the trouble, arthritis of the hip.

Letzerich still plans to run the 10,000 metres in 28 minutes flat at Munich. He first took part in the Olympics in 1964. "Only three runners are now left from Tokyo, Norpoth, Philipp and me," he says.

It is, he feels, a mere coincidence that all three of them recently became a father – almost to the hour.

Michael Gernandt

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